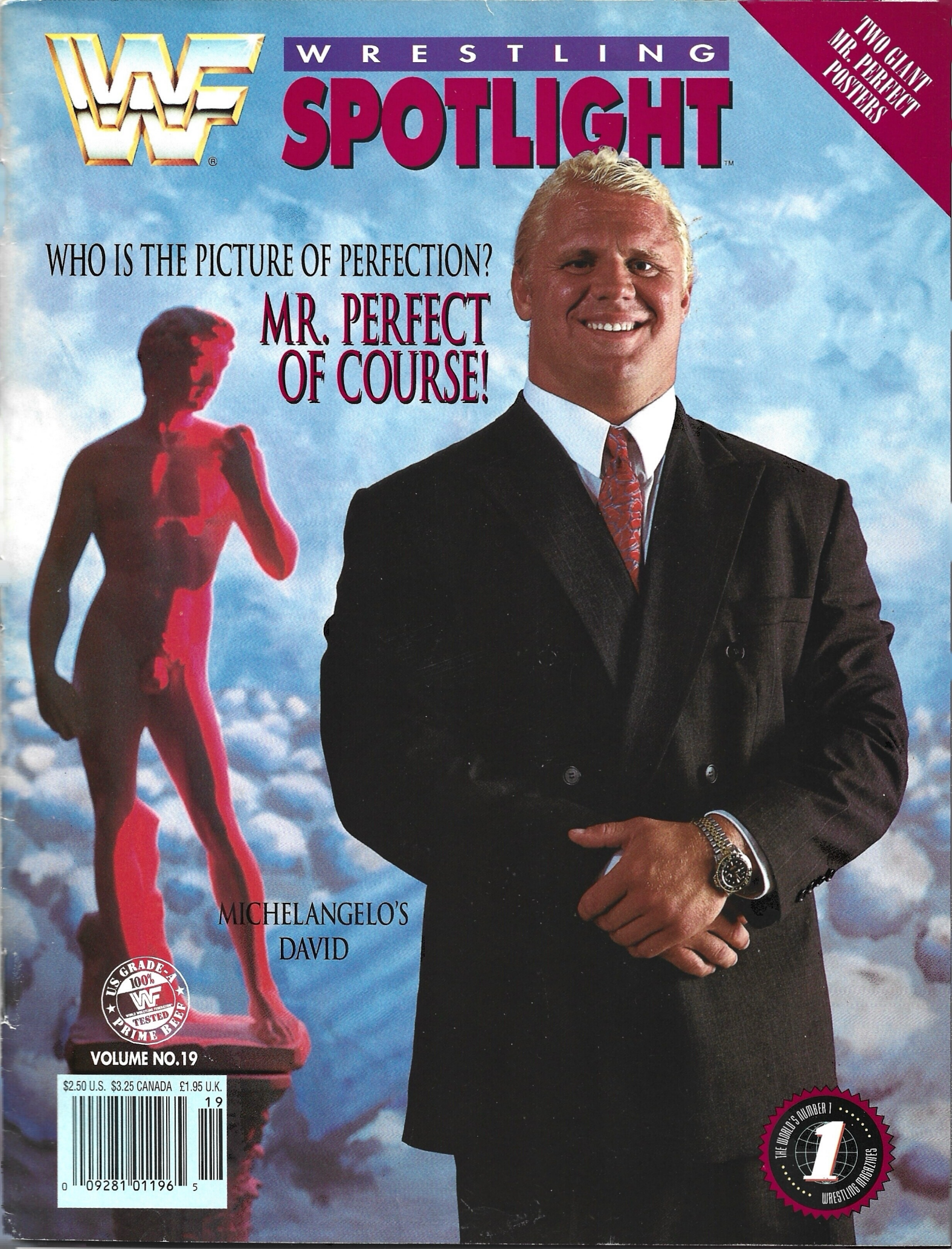
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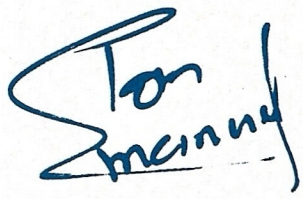
A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

There is nobody quite like Mr. Perfect. While we won't say—as he always does—that he is absolutely perfect at everything he does, we'll admit he is close. Mr. Perfect is a classic wrestler and a superior athlete. He is a total package—power, quickness, intelligence and expertise. No wonder his ring record is one of the best.

Nowadays Mr. Perfect is focused on his ring career as never before. He believes he is the best and is bent on proving it to everyone. We expect Mr. Perfect—in his typical fashion—will do just that. The months and years ahead promise to be very exciting and rewarding for Mr. Perfect—and for his fans.

Because of the above, we determined that Mr. Perfect would be the subject of this issue of *Wrestling Spotlight*. Mr. Perfect provides plenty of material to write about, and he makes a super subject for photographers. For the staff, putting out this issue was truly fun. We hope you enjoy reading it as much we enjoyed doing it.



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mr. perfect
W
INTERCONTINENTAL
HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING
CHAMPION

PERFECT

RETROSPECTIVE

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

It's all a part of the game, the posturing, the flexing, the superlatives. Many men enter the World Wrestling Federation trying to awe prospective opponents with awesome claims. The veterans usually look the other way and smirk. They've heard it all before, and it's rarely worth taking seriously. From his first day in the World Wrestling Federation, Mr. Perfect was different. The cynical old hands of the squared circle would stand in the dressing room entrance, watching his matches astutely. When he'd look into the television camera and declare his goals of conquest, few, if any, shook their heads and laughed. This was a man who stood apart from the average newcomer. A second generation competitor, Mr. Perfect—Curt Hennig, the son of wrestling legend Larry "The Ax" Hennig—understood what it took to rule between the ropes.

Moreover, he appeared to actually believe his own boasts. In his words, he was thoroughly convinced that he was "absolutely, positively perfect."

There were those who wanted to cut him down to size. Some did, albeit temporarily. Hulk Hogan, Bret "Hit Man" Hart, Razor Ramon and Ric Flair have all had their moments looking down at the man who claimed infallibility. But Mr. Perfect never stayed down for long.

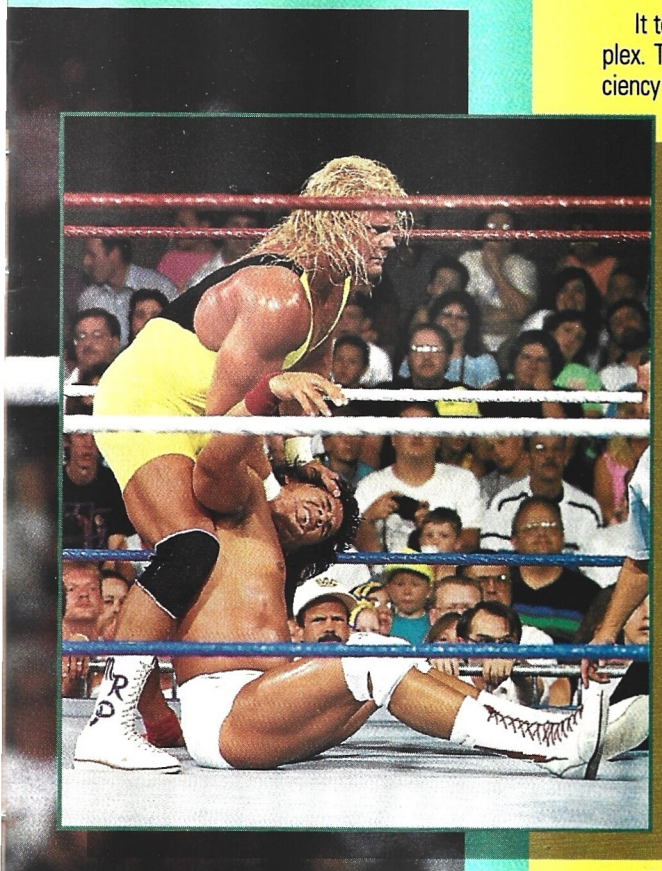
"Perfect," the two-time Intercontinental titlist declared after every triumph. "Nothing less than perfect."

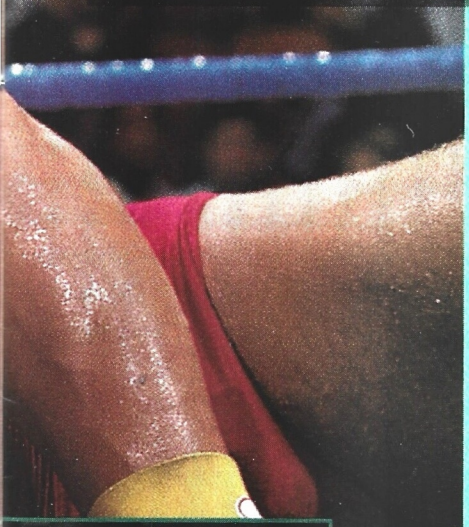
But at what price perfection? Mr. Perfect's confident declarations won him instant enemies, and he's experienced his share of hard knocks. Perhaps his worst setback was losing the Intercontinental Title to Bret "Hit Man" Hart at *SummerSlam '91*. Then he was "used" by manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan and Ric Flair when they wanted him out of the championship picture.

But he's also gained valuable allies, most notably the Hit Man, who came to respect Perfect's remarkable abilities after their battle, and Macho Man Randy Savage, who stunned the wrestling world by calling on wrestling's golden boy to return to the ring after a lengthy absence. It was a move fans appreciated as much as Mr. Perfect himself.

When Mr. Perfect joined the World Wrestling Federation in 1988, he quickly climbed the ladder to superstardom. Perfect used his finely honed wrestling skill, his wicked tenacity and a finishing move called the Perfect-plex to get to the top.

After several months in the World Wrestling Federation, Bobby Heenan recruited Perfect. Under Heenan, Perfect became a cold-hearted contender who used any means to win.





perfect retrospective perfect retrospective

...he was thoroughly convinced that he was "absolutely, positively perfect."

It took him years to develop his finisher, a suplex variation called the Perfect-plex. The move is arguably the best suplex in wrestling. Part of Perfect's proficiency at the maneuver is simply based on good genetics—he was born a powerhouse, with mighty arms and a strong neck, which he bridges after taking his foe to the mat. But much of the Perfect-plex is the result of hard training. It takes nothing less than a ring master to determine when his opponent is sufficiently weakened to fall victim to the hold.

First, he locks his adversary in a front facelock, a move that is actually more dangerous than it appears. When a man's head is fastened between Mr. Perfect's sturdy arms, one quick twist can mean a broken neck. Then the victim's left arm is draped around Perfect's bull neck. At this point, Mr. Perfect relies on his extraordinary upper-body strength and fleet-footed agility, hoisting the foe into the air and taking him down with a cradle-suplex. As both men hit the mat, Perfect raises his shoulders off the canvas with the neck bridge—just as the referee's hand hits the mat three definitive times.

The first time the Perfect-plex was truly tested was at *WrestleMania V*. Both the future Intercontinental Champion and his opponent, the high-flying Blue Blazer, were promising upstarts at the time; each was touted as being a superstar of the future. Mr. Perfect was willing to let his foe take the lead at the match's start. But with every lump he took, Perfect was calculating, waiting for the Blazer to make just one mistake. This occurred when the hooded wrestler—perhaps a bit too self-assured—scaled the turnbuckles and soared through the air at his floored foe. Perfect waited, then struck, jamming his knees into the Blazer as he plummeted toward the canvas. From that time on, Mr. Perfect owned the match. The Blue Blazer enjoyed a brief flurry, but Perfect could not be stopped. Eventually, the masked man fell victim to the Perfect-plex, sinking to obscurity after the match as Mr. Perfect rose to wrestling glory.

Perfect's friends at the time were suggesting any number of worthy competitors to prepare Perfect for a run at the Championship, then held by Hulk Hogan. But Perfect had no desire to work his way up through the cluster of challengers. Instead, he went right for the top, targeting the Hulkster.

In a *Saturday Night's Main Event* match, Perfect sent his adviser at the time, the Genius, into the ring with the champion. Hogan and his fans expected an easy victory for *Hulkamania*. Indeed, just as Hulk was about to drop an elbow on his opponent, Hogan was shocked to see a cocky Mr. Perfect strut to ringside.

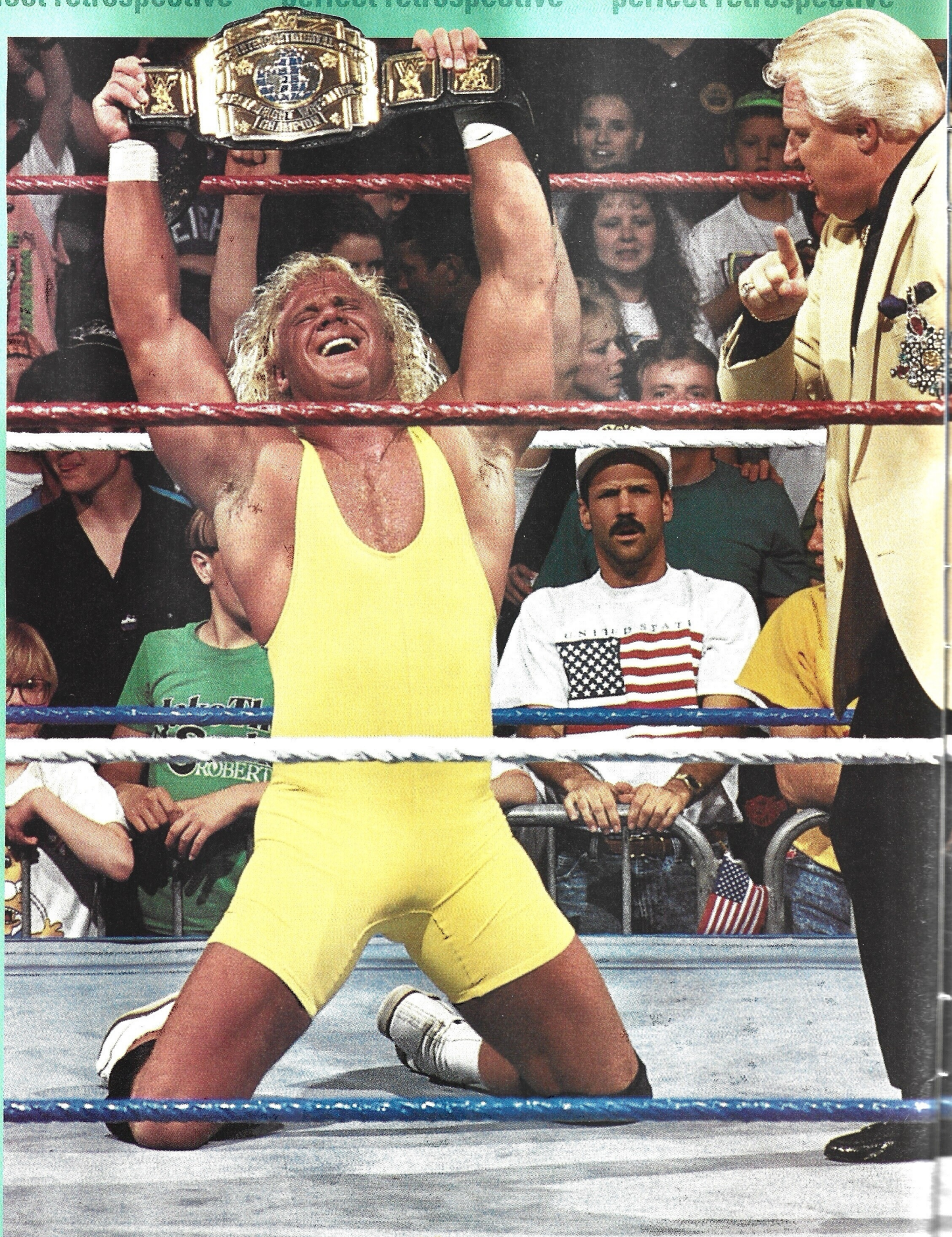
"This is not a perfect champion," Perfect announced, removing a glob of gum and placing it on the championship belt. "And this is definitely not a perfect belt."

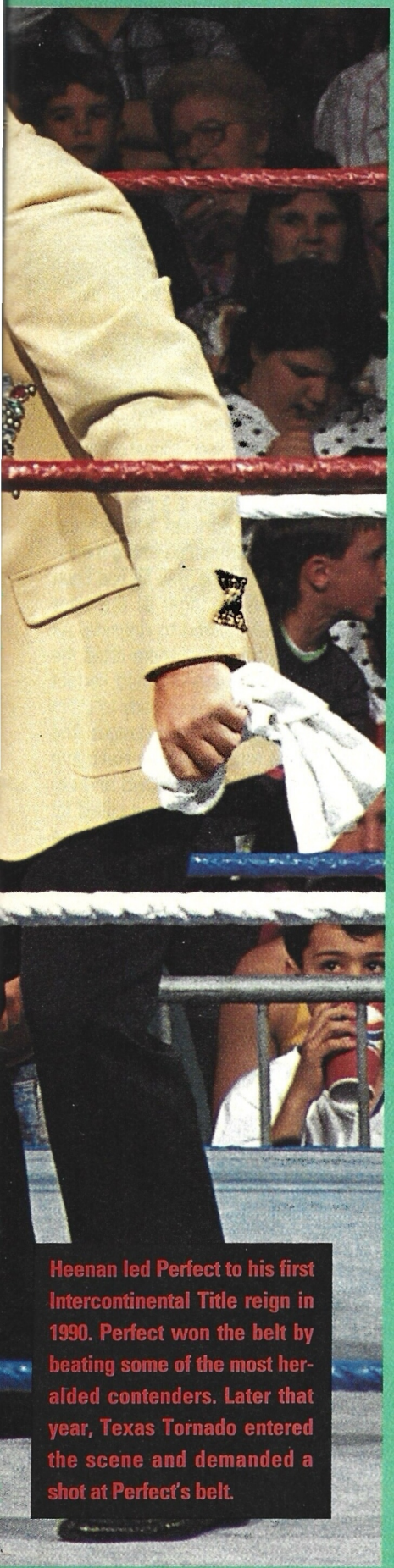
The Hulkster was psyched out. The belt was the prize for which he had sacrificed his sweat and blood, and Mr. Perfect was making a mockery of it. Although Hogan would continue to surge throughout the match, Perfect had the ploy he needed. Outside the ring, a distracted Hogan battered the Genius and tossed him back into the ring, but Mr. Perfect was ready to strike from behind. He whacked the Hulkster with the belt, forcing the champion to be counted out and the lowly Genius to be declared the victor.

Since a title cannot change hands via a count-out, the championship still belonged to Hulk Hogan, but the Hulkster wasn't satisfied. He wanted Mr. Perfect immediately and granted him exactly what Perfect desired: a shot at the most coveted prize in wrestling.

If one were to look simply at the results of their confrontations, it would seem as if Hulk Hogan got the better of this conflict. But watch tapes of the match, and that conclusion is questionable. The Genius and Perfect always pooled their treachery, and even when the Hulkster won, he seemed frustrated by the dual efforts of the tandem. In fact, it was during a tag team bout against Genius and Perfect that Hogan and the Ultimate Warrior—confused by the devious tactics of the duo—had the misunderstanding that led to their match at *WrestleMania VI*.

By that time, Perfect had so upset Hogan's ally Brutus Beefcake that the Barber had demanded a match with the self-professed flawless man at the annual





Heenan led Perfect to his first Intercontinental Title reign in 1990. Perfect won the belt by beating some of the most heralded contenders. Later that year, Texas Tornado entered the scene and demanded a shot at Perfect's belt.

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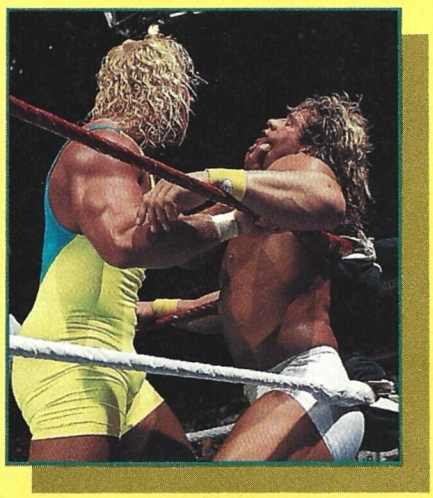
classic. While no one could discount Beefcake's abilities, with the Genius in Perfect's corner, the golden-haired braggart was the favorite to get the duke. This seemed even more likely during the match when, as Brutus clamped his sleeper on Mr. Perfect, the Genius slipped his metal scroll to his cohort, who cracked his opponent with the object. But that night underhanded tactics would not work. The Barber endured a pounding, then gripped Mr. Perfect by the legs and slingshot him into the ringpost, knocking him unconscious. When he came to, Perfect refused to accept the fact that he'd lost.

Now Perfect was feeling desperate. He needed a stunning achievement to eclipse his defeat by Beefcake. When the Ultimate Warrior relinquished his Intercontinental Championship—after beating Hogan for the World Wrestling Federation Title at *WrestleMania VI*—Mr. Perfect was one of the first to sign up for the tournament that would determine a new titlist.

After fighting his way through the other contenders, Perfect was matched up with El Matador Tito Santana in the final. Experts were uncertain how this contest would go. Santana had held the Intercontinental Championship before, and he had worked hard for this chance to reclaim the prize. Apparently, Mr. Perfect was even more determined. He had told the world that he was perfect, and this night he was going to prove it.

As far as pure wrestling went, he couldn't have been better. In Santana, he was facing a premier technician, but Perfect always seemed to be one step ahead. Yet he still depended on outside forces just to set the scales in his favor. As Santana accelerated near the end of the contest, Tito was astonished to see manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan climb onto the ring apron. Momentarily, El Matador tempered his assault. The break allowed the opening Perfect needed. He rolled up Santana, cradled him for the pin and claimed the coveted belt.



Not surprisingly, Mr. Perfect announced after the match that Heenan was his new manager. "He made me feel as if I needed him," Perfect now admits. "He said things like, 'See, if it wasn't for me, you wouldn't have that championship.' I have to tell you that at the time it seemed to make sense, but signing a deal with Bobby Heenan is like signing a pact with the devil. You might have glory for a while, but in the end you're gonna burn."

In fact, the alliance almost broke up shortly after it started when the Texas Tornado stunned the crowd at *SummerSlam '90* by defeating the champion with a discus punch—and it was all Heenan's fault. The manager had told his charge not to bother training too hard for this match. Heenan insisted the Texan was not a threat. Now the burden was on the adviser to help his man get the title back—fast.

Million Dollar Man Ted DiBiase was the weapon Perfect and his manager needed. Everyone in the arena was aware that something was amiss when DiBiase paid off the ring announcer to trade places with him before the re-match even started. Sitting at ringside with the Intercontinental Championship Belt in his lap, DiBiase waited to manifest the plot. His opportunity came when the referee got in the middle of a collision between the combatants and was knocked out cold. Seemingly oblivious to the official's condition, the Tornado whacked his rival with a discus punch and covered him for the pin. Then DiBiase climbed onto the apron, stepped through the strands, clonked the belt against the Tornado and revived Perfect. Although weakened by his opponent's ferocious onslaught, Perfect did what he had to do to regain his championship. Calling on his last reserve of strength, he gripped his adversary in a front facelock and executed a shaky but effective Perfect-plex, holding the Tornado in a pinning position until the referee

As far as pure wrestling went, he couldn't have been better.

perfect retrospective
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Perfect lost the belt to the Tornado at *SummerSlam '90* but later regained it. Perfect then went on to defend the championship against the Boss Man at *WrestleMania VII*.

could crawl over and register the victory.

"Sure, I had the belt back," Perfect says, "but, deep down, I knew I had cheated to get it. I knew I could have done better."

Even worse, Perfect now owed Heenan. Instead of booking his protégé in matches that would further his career, the manager fought his personal battles through Perfect. For months the Big Boss Man had been targeting Heenan for his disparaging comments about his mother. At *WrestleMania VII*, the adviser sent Perfect into the ring with the Boss Man to cool the lawman's momentum.

The plan was to keep the Cobb County, Georgia, native distracted. After the Boss Man escaped from an abdominal stretch attempt, Heenan seized Boss Man's attention. The law and order advocate went after Heenan on the arena floor, allowing Perfect to attack his opponent from behind, running him into the steel ringpost.

No one anticipated what would occur next. Heenan's former protégé Andre the Giant—still bitter about the way he had been abandoned by his manager at the prior *WrestleMania*—lumbered to ringside. As Heenan scurried for cover, Andre lifted the Intercontinental Belt and smashed Perfect with it. Now Boss Man was ready to claim victory—but Heenan had other designs. The manager's other protégés Haku and the Barbarian came down and entered the fray. The referee called for Perfect's disqualification, but—since a title can only change hands via pinfall or submission—Mr. Perfect left the mega-event with his championship.

"I should have figured out why Andre was so angry," Perfect says. "Heenan had manipulated him just like he did me."

In the dressing room, the powerful British Bulldog watched the proceedings and concluded that Mr. Perfect was not as perfect as he purported himself to be. If he was, the Bulldog argued, Perfect would rely on his own skills instead of constantly depending on his manager. Oddly, this taunt brought out the best in Mr. Perfect. Against the Bulldog, Perfect exhibited sheer wrestling ability, retaining the championship. "I had to prove to myself," Perfect recounts, "that I could beat the best in the game, manager or not."

When Perfect finally did drop the Intercontinental Championship, he fought nobly in a classic against Bret Hart at *SummerSlam '91* at New York's Madison Square Garden. In the dressing room before the contest, rumors abounded that the Intercontinental champ had suffered a back injury during the grueling course of defending the belt. These

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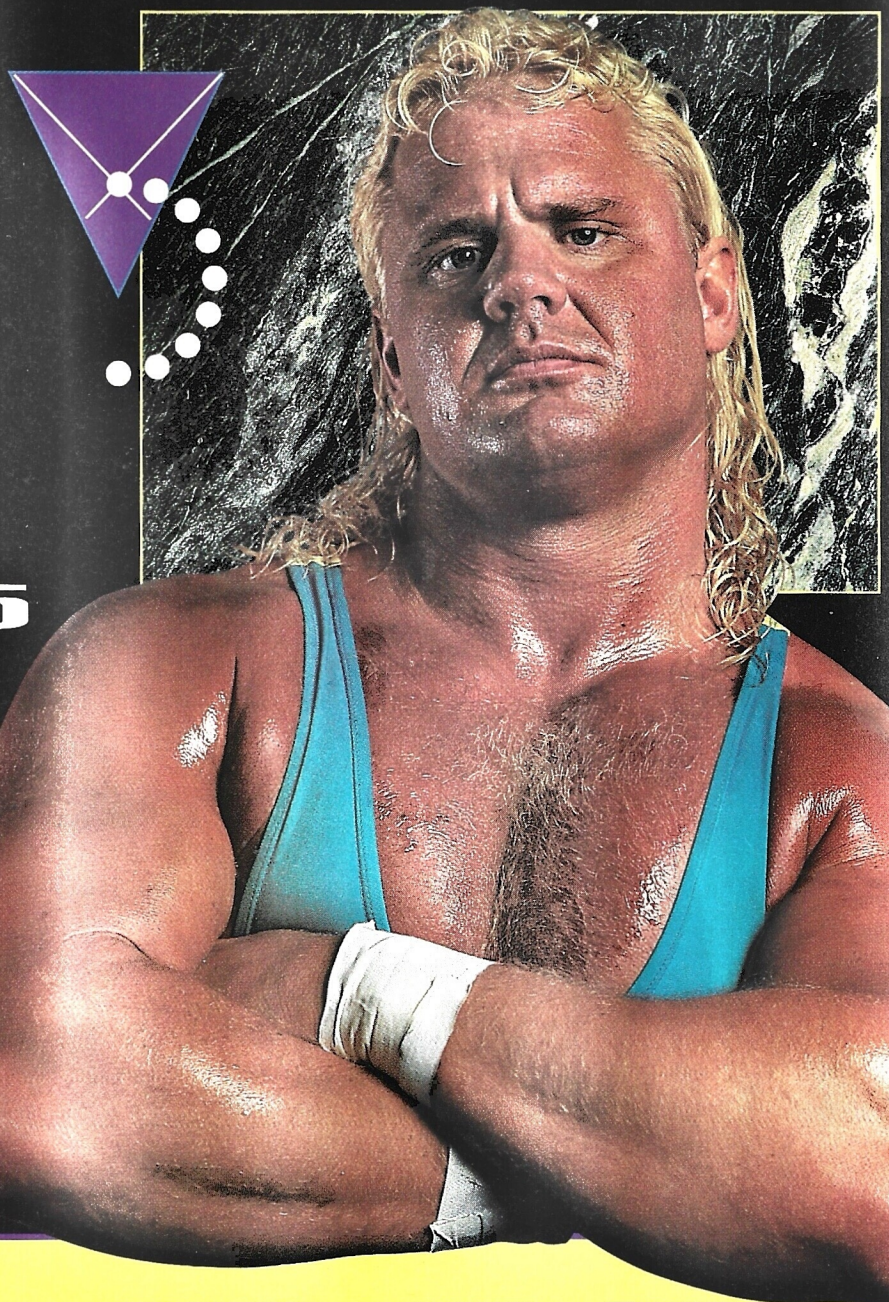

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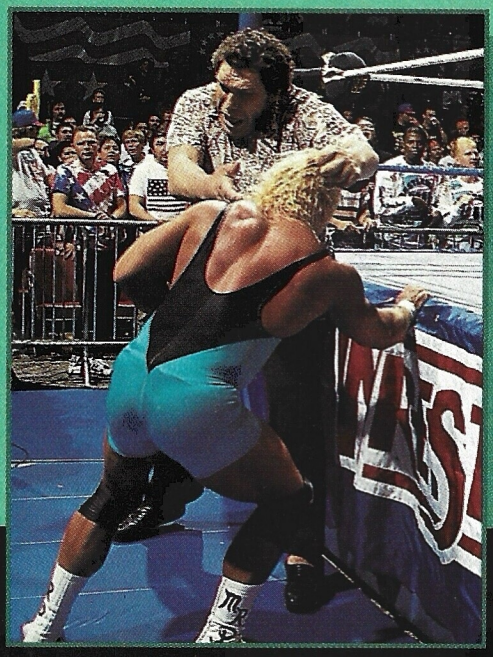
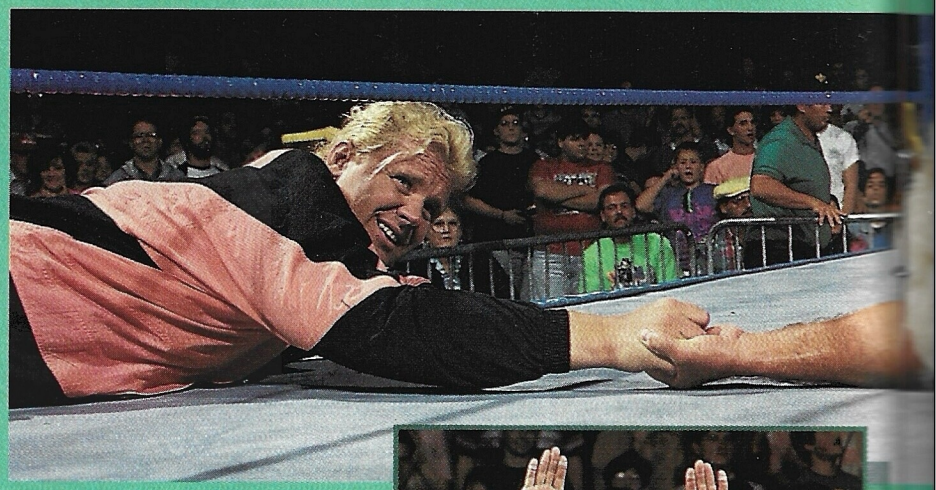
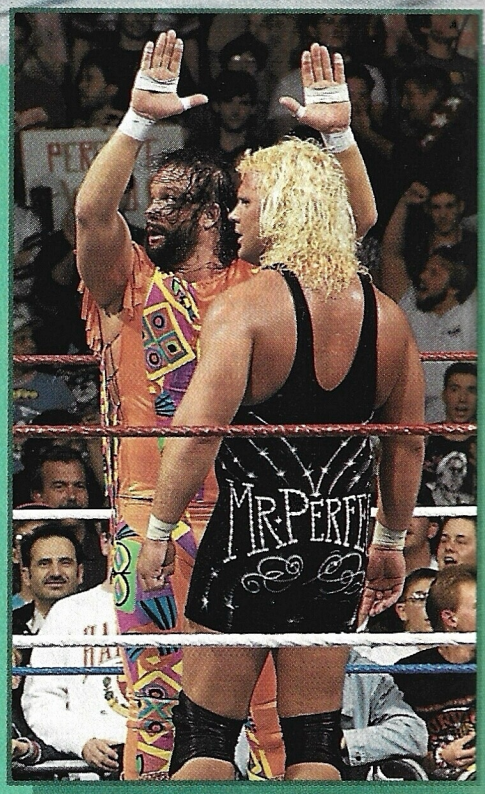
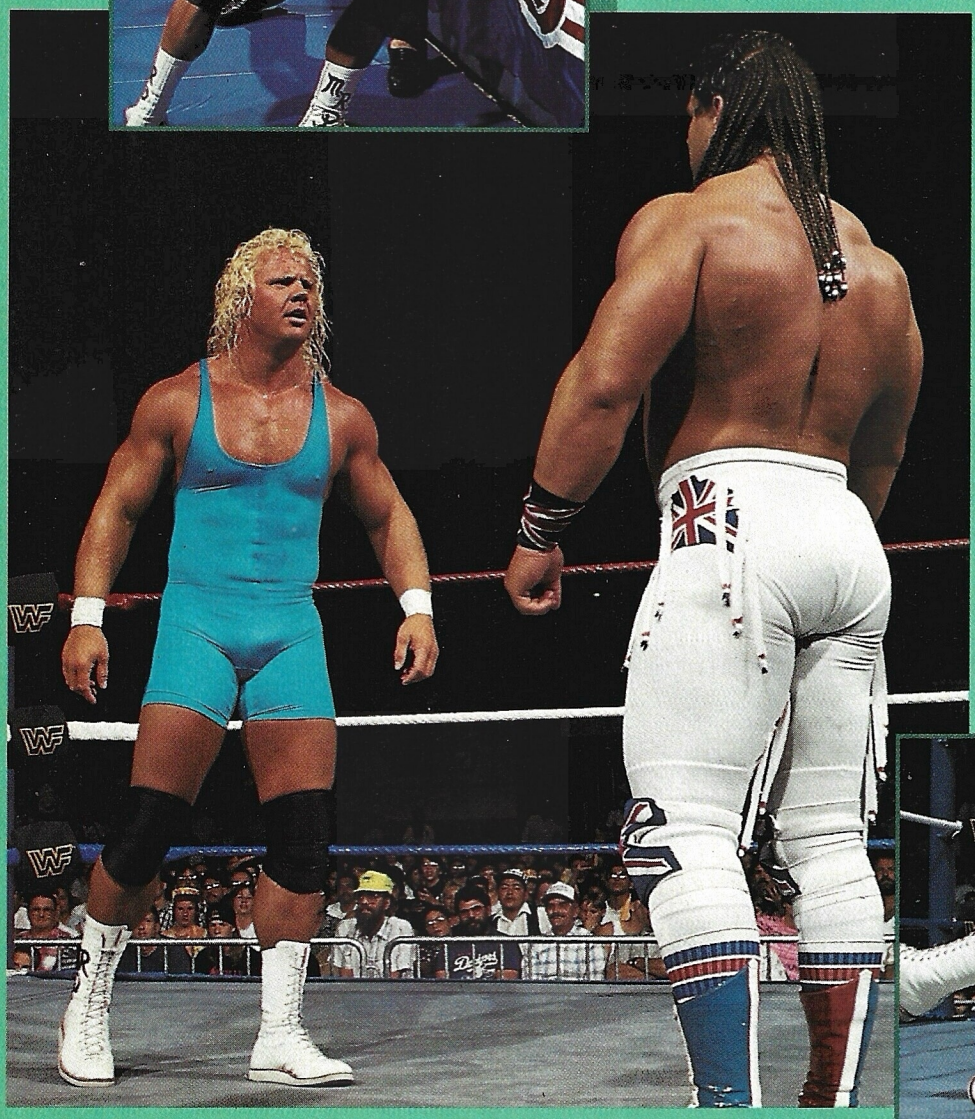
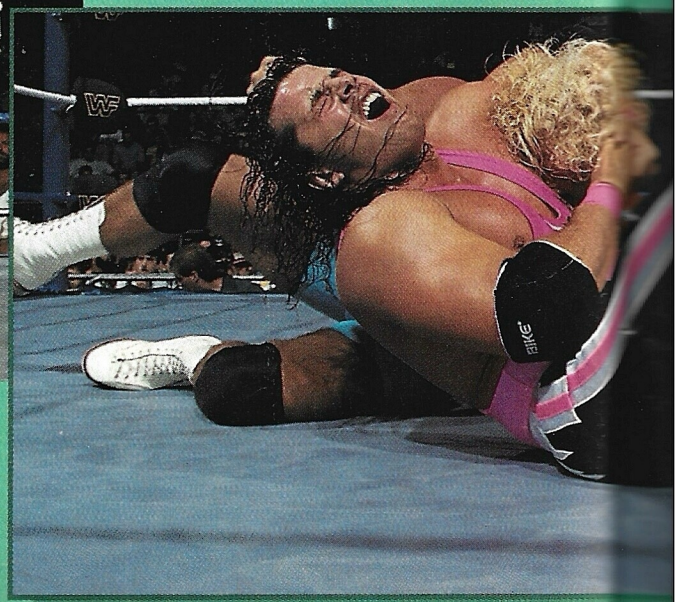


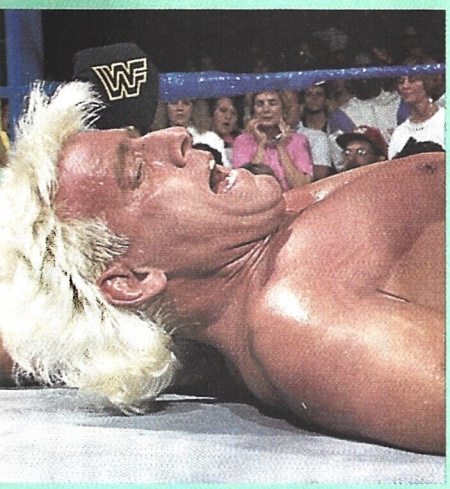


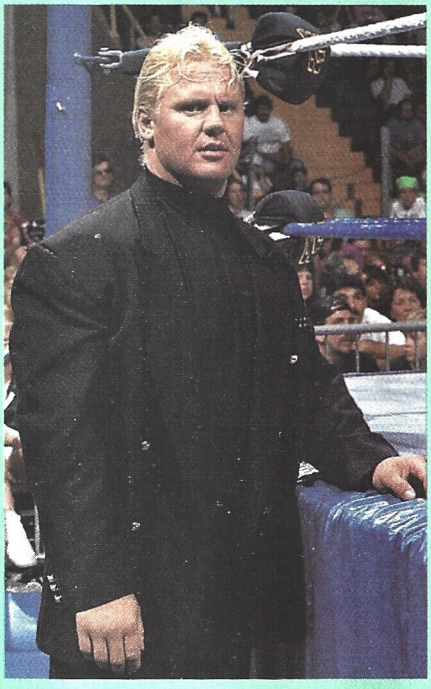


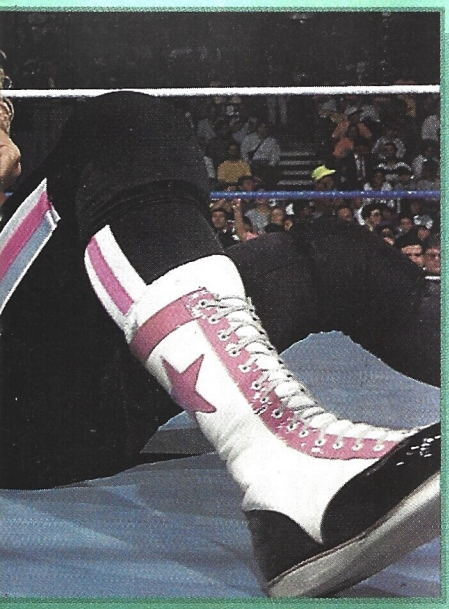




After *WrestleMania VII*, Perfect clashed with the British Bulldog and met Bret Hart at *SummerSlam '91*. Hart used his Sharpshooter to defeat Perfect, who then became Flair's Executive Consultant before turning against the Nature Boy to join up with Savage.







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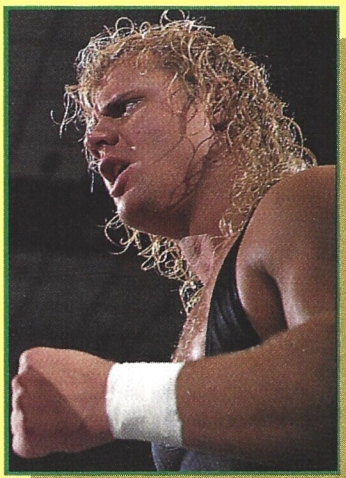
stories reached the Hit Man, who vowed to capitalize on any weaknesses he spotted in the champion. Indeed, Hart surged to an early lead, but—proving his comeback skills—Perfect seized the advantage when Hit Man's attention was elsewhere. As the referee squeezed between the two gladiators, Perfect nailed his adversary with a punch, then took the battle onto the arena floor. In the perilous territory at ringside where Perfect has always been so effective, he chopped his challenger and even used him as a human footstool to re-enter the ring.

The contest tilted back and forth. Each superstar delivered his best moves, but neither was willing to quit. A legdrop by Perfect seemed to crush the challenger's sternum. Hart appeared to be finished. Perfect went for a second legdrop. Amazingly, Hart reached up and grasped his opponent's foot, then turned him over for the celebrated Sharpshooter. Perfect struggled to escape but finally succumbed to the pain. Bret Hart was the new Intercontinental titlist.

Like many who lose an important belt, Perfect decided to take some time off. He became part of the announcing team, and Bobby Heenan came up with a second assignment: handling Ric Flair as his Executive Consultant.

Flair needed Perfect badly. Aside from Perfect's vast wrestling experience, he was a master strategist. "I understood Ric Flair's pluses and minuses better than Heenan did," Perfect claims. "Heenan didn't want Flair to figure this out, so he recruited me, and like a sucker, I went along." For more than a year, Perfect was Flair's most valuable ally, interfering in the Nature Boy's matches and defending him in television commentary. Perfect's duties as Executive Consultant forced him to put his own career on hold. Although resentment was starting to build, it took a stunning decision by Macho Man Randy Savage to bring it out.

Shortly before the 1992 *Survivor Series*, Savage's tag team partner inexplicably abandoned him. Perfect was slated to be in the corner of the opposing squad, made up of Ric Flair and Razor Ramon. Heenan, the Financial Adviser of the team, was counting on Perfect to ensure that all went smoothly. Then Savage made a staggering announcement: He wanted Perfect as his partner. After all, who understood Flair better? When Perfect asked why he should entertain the Macho Man's offer, Savage had a ready answer: Heenan and Flair were holding back the former Intercontinental titlist.



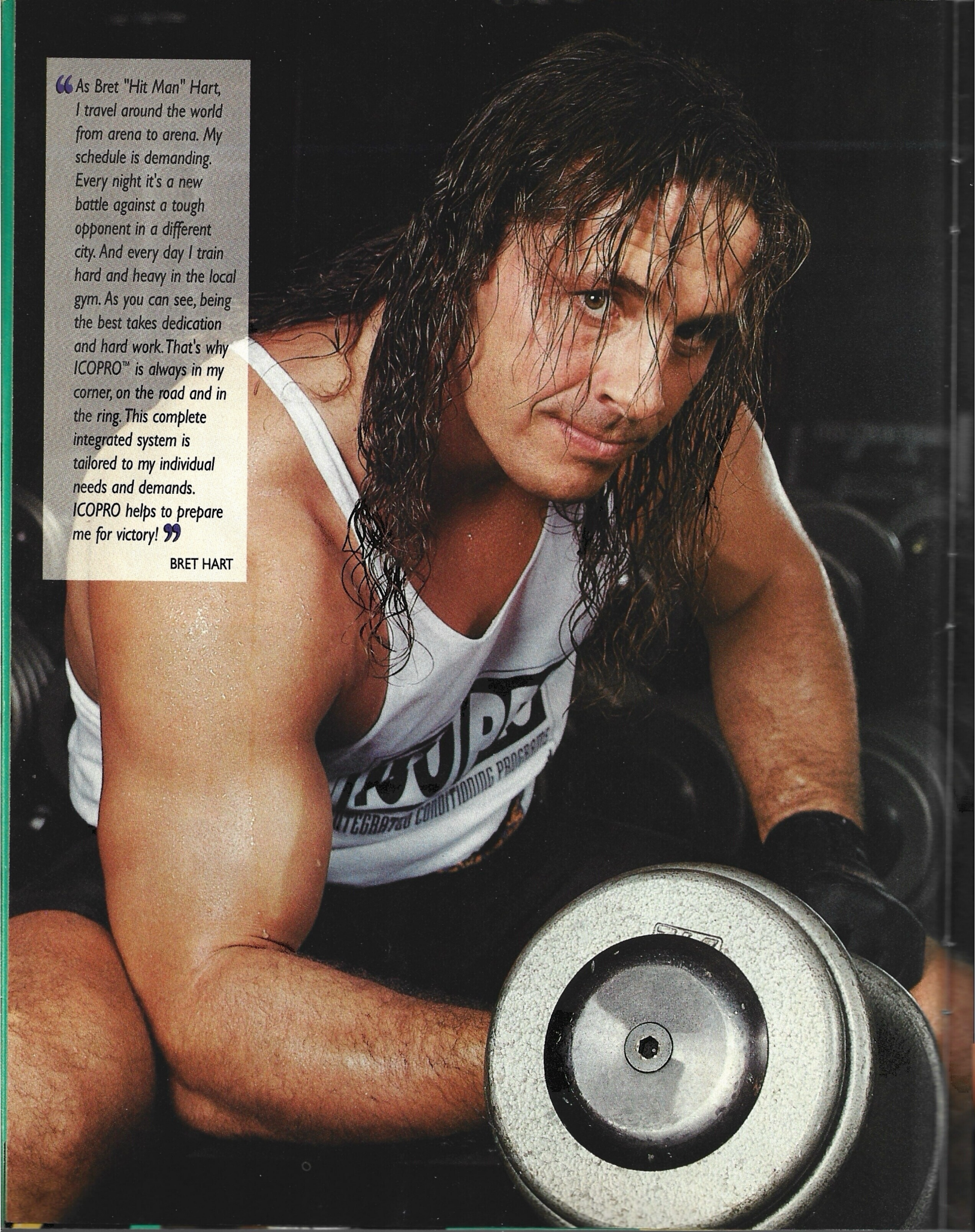
Perfect accepted Savage's challenge, creating one of the most interesting duos in ring history. The teammates admitted they didn't like each other, but their mutual respect made for a great pairing.

By Savage's own admission, his new partner was the star of the match. Starting the contest against Razor Ramon, Mr. Perfect baffled the Cuban with exceptional wrestling. Flair stepped in, only to be dazzled by a backdrop, dropkick and clothesline. After Savage tagged in and suffered a brutal double-teaming, Perfect came to the rescue. First Razor absorbed a Perfect-plex, then Flair. Referee Earl Hebner crept over to log the three-count, but Ramon intervened, kicking Perfect. Tired of the antics of Flair and Razor, the official disqualified the tandem and awarded the match to Perfect and Savage.

Still, the inconclusiveness of the finish left the door open to future clashes between Mr. Perfect and his *Survivor Series* rivals. Razor Ramon is fuming at Mr. Perfect, whom he sees as an obstacle to further progress in the World Wrestling Federation. He also may be jealous of the blond-haired athlete for his superb wrestling style and for his success in the squared circle. It seems that the burly Cuban does not like to see other people make good.

Ramon has pledged life will be tougher for Perfect once they meet one-on-one. Heenan threatens that Perfect will regret ditching him when Razor Ramon metes out revenge. If Perfect is worried, he doesn't show it. "Razor is tough and dangerous," he points out. "But only *one* wrestler is perfect."

"I had to prove to myself," Perfect recounts, "that I could beat the best in the game, manager or not."



"As Bret "Hit Man" Hart, I travel around the world from arena to arena. My schedule is demanding. Every night it's a new battle against a tough opponent in a different city. And every day I train hard and heavy in the local gym. As you can see, being the best takes dedication and hard work. That's why ICOPRO™ is always in my corner, on the road and in the ring. This complete integrated system is tailored to my individual needs and demands. ICOPRO helps to prepare me for victory!"

BRET HART

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Just like Bret "Hit Man" Hart, not everyone trains the same. Some people train six days a week; others have time for only three or four workouts. The **ICOPRO™ Professional Bodybuilding Program** is designed to provide detailed workouts no matter what your level of experience may be or what your schedule allows.

The ICOPRO Professional Bodybuilding Program is the result of years of scientific research by top sports scientists combined with the experience of professional athletes who live in the trenches of tough, grueling workouts. For the first time, ICOPRO™ offers you the opportunity to build incredible lean muscle mass in just nine weeks.

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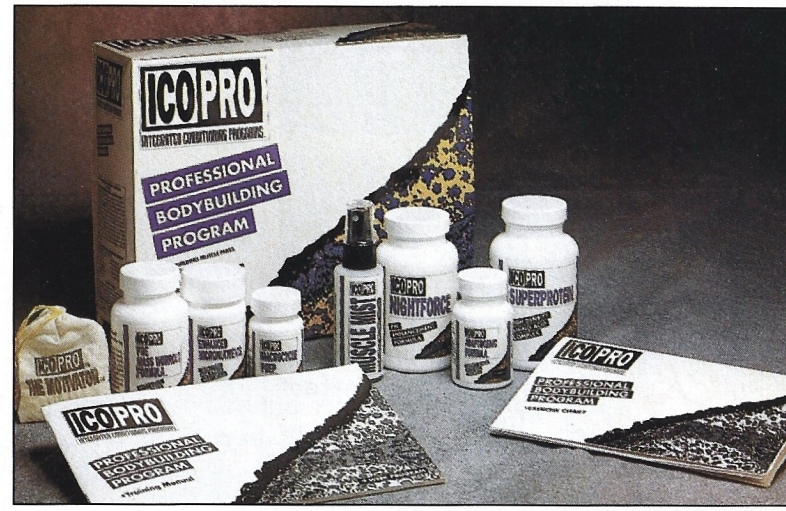
The ICOPRO Professional Bodybuilding Program not only shows you how to train but also answers all your questions about proper nutrition. When should you eat? What should you eat? How much should you eat? All the answers to these questions and more are incorporated into the program. The ICOPRO Professional Bodybuilding Program provides extensive nutritional information designed to help you build and retain lean muscle mass.

The eight nutritional supplements contained in each ICOPRO Professional Bodybuilding Program are the most technologically advanced supplements available anywhere – ICOPRO Superproteins™, powerful herbs, perfectly balanced vitamins and minerals, aromatherapy and more.

Whether you've been training for years, months or you are just starting out, this program is designed for you. It's easy to use and perfectly safe.

With the ICOPRO Professional Bodybuilding Program, no longer are you training on your own. No longer do you have to rely on trial and error. ICOPRO takes the guesswork out of your workouts. ICOPRO is more than simple "pills and powders." It's a complete approach to training, integrating all phases of conditioning to build your body not only to its greatest potential but beyond! ICOPRO – You've gotta want it!™



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- The exclusive 75-page interactive training manual complete with daily workouts, chronobiological clocks and proper nutrition for adding lean muscle mass.
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- ICOPRO Pre-Mass Workout Formula™ with light-protected dibencozide.
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SPOTLIGHT

TRIVIA QUIZ

BY LARRY HUMBER

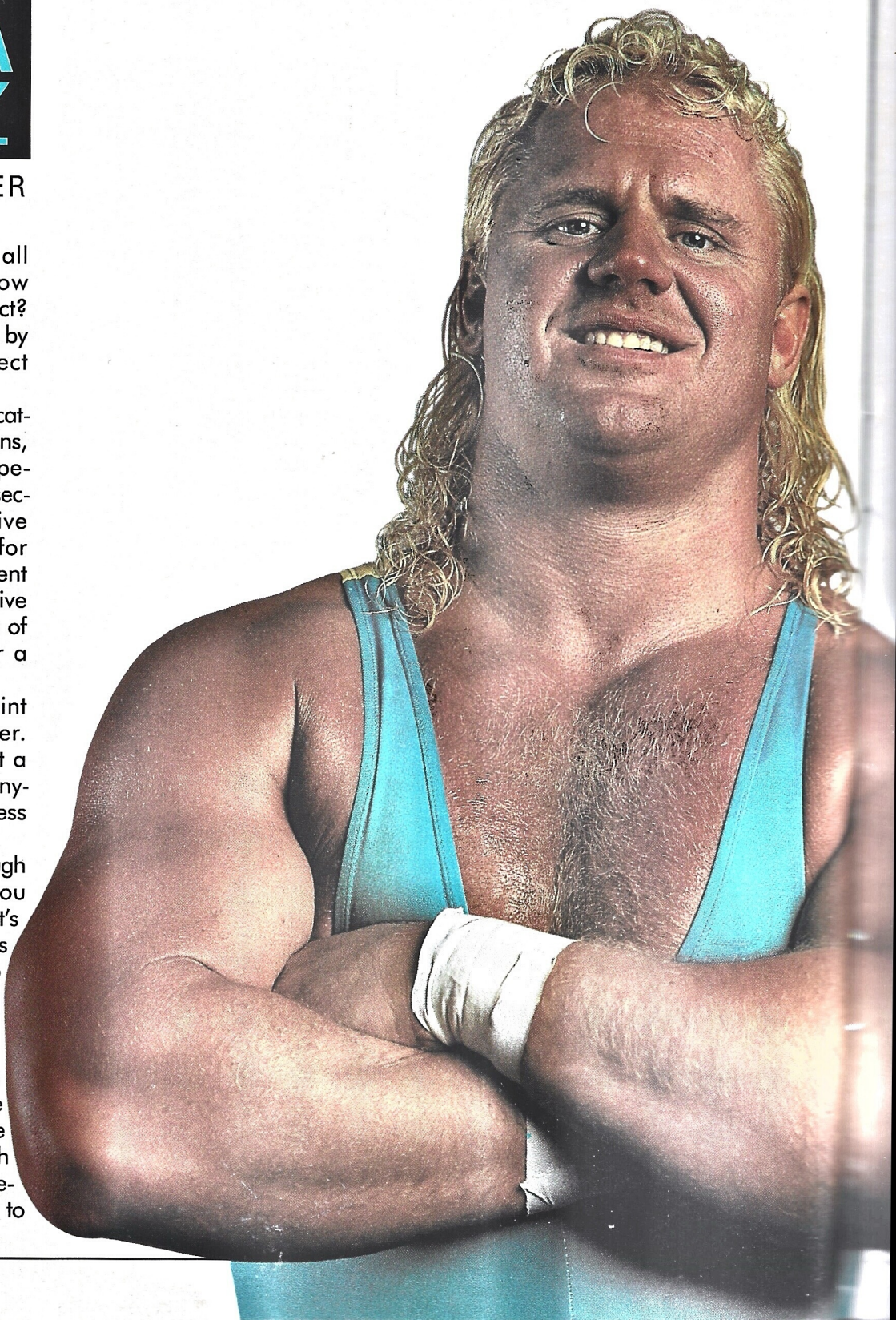
I think you know all there is to know about Mr. Perfect? You can find out by taking the Perfect Trivia Quiz.

There are five categories of questions, followed by a special Tough Stuff section. The first five categories are for your entertainment only. There are five questions in each of those five categories, for a total of 25.

Award yourself a point for every correct answer. Mr. Perfect doesn't expect a perfect score, though. Anything over 20 will impress him; over 15, not bad.

The final category, Tough Stuff, will really have you scratching your head. That's why we're asking readers to send in their answers to those five questions.

The correct answers will be published in the next issue of *Wrestling Spotlight,* along with the names of the first five readers who come up with all the answers. They'll receive a free membership to the 1993 Fan Club.



A PERFECT BEGINNING

1 Mr. Perfect hails from the Gopher State. What state is that?

2 During his time away from the ring, he was both Ric Flair's Executive Consultant and co-host of what television show?

3 What does he call his version of the suplex?

4 Complete Perfect's pet phrase: "Now, that's ____ _____."

5 A smiling Mr. Perfect appeared on the cover of *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* earlier this year. What month was that?

TITLES WON AND LOST

6 Mr. Perfect has twice been Intercontinental Champion. He got his first title shot after Federation President Jack Tunney ruled that the Ultimate Warrior had to give up the Intercontinental Belt. Why was that?

7 A single-elimination tournament was held to determine the new Intercontinental Champion. Whom did Perfect beat in the final match of that tournament?

8 Perfect lost the belt at *SummerSlam '90*, done in by a twisting Tornado punch. Who threw it?

9 Perfect regained the Intercontinental Title soon after, but he needed some help. What well-heeled wrestler intervened on his behalf?

10 Perfect parted ways with the belt at *SummerSlam '91*, in one of the greatest bouts ever. Who took his title that time?

SIMPLY THE BEST

11 Mr. Perfect is especially proud of his 21-inch what?

12 He has often been pictured in this magazine dabbling in other sports. He was once shown making seven straight ringers. What sport was he playing?

13 Perfect was also shown taking off from a three-meter board. What sport was that?

14 Mr. Perfect has even tried his hand at writing, occasionally penning what column in our official magazine?

15 Perfect used to boast that which many-time Champion couldn't match his feats?

THE WORLD WAS WATCHING

16 Perfect has been a fixture at *WrestleMania* since making his debut at *WrestleMania V*. Whom did he meet up with in that one?

17 At *WrestleMania VI*, Perfect met what hair-raising wrestler?

18 At *WrestleMania VII* in Los Angeles, Perfect was competing against what no-nonsense individual, with his Intercontinental Title on the line?

19 Perfect retained the belt, but he needed some help from a couple of cohorts who stormed the ring when it seemed all was lost for him. Who saved him?

20 Perfect wasn't on the card at *WrestleMania VIII*, but he got in a few licks anyway. Who suffered at his hands?

BACK IN THE HIGH LIFE AGAIN

21 Perfect returned to the ring at the 1992 *Survivor Series*. With whom was he paired?

22 Had Perfect and his partner ever officially been opponents before in the ring?

23 What were they billed as for their bout at the *Survivor Series*?

24 With whom did Perfect first tangle in that match?

25 Who won, and how?

TOUGH STUFF (Send answers to World Wrestling Federation Magazine, Post Office Box 3859, Stamford, CT 06902; postcards only, please.)

a) One of Mr. Perfect's first appearances was at the 1988 *Survivor Series*. He was a member of the team captained by Dino Bravo and which other wrestler?

b) Whose belt did Perfect once desecrate on national television?

c) When was Perfect first featured on the cover of *World Wrestling Federation Magazine*?

d) Perfect recently told *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* that former associate Bobby "The Brain" Heenan wouldn't last long in the ring with him. How long would he last?

e) Perfect's dad was also a wrestler of note. Do you know his name?

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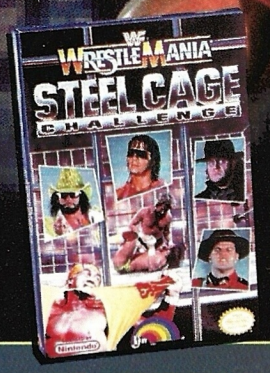

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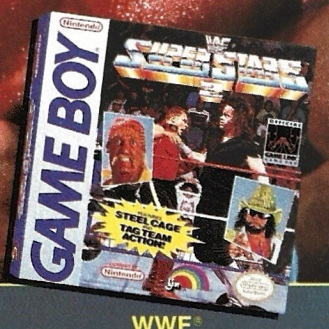

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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®

1993 SPRING SUMMER MERCHANDISE CATALOG

UNDERTAKER™

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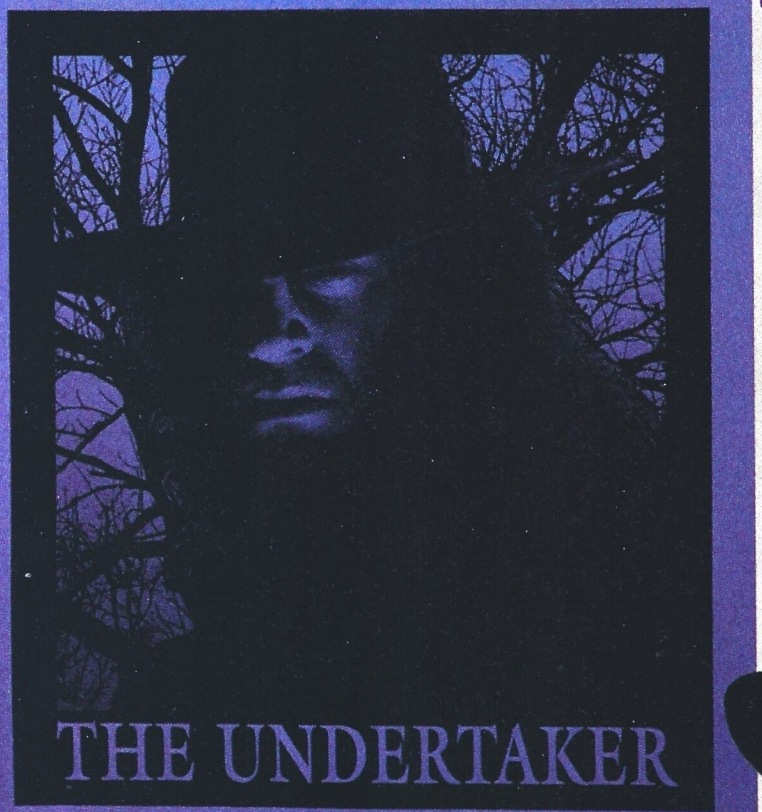

A. NEW! UNDERTAKER™ WALL HANGING

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B. NEW! FOAM URN

Add our foam urn to your collection of unearthly Undertaker memorabilia. Features signatures of the Undertaker and Paul Bearer™ and hand opening to wave on your favorite WWF® Superstar™ to victory.
27-00128.....$7.95 each

C. NEW! UNDERTAKER™ T-SHIRT

The WWF's Grim Reaper appears through the darkness on this 50/50 poly/cotton black T-shirt. Machine washable, made in USA. **Priced at.....$15.95 each**

01-01005 - Small
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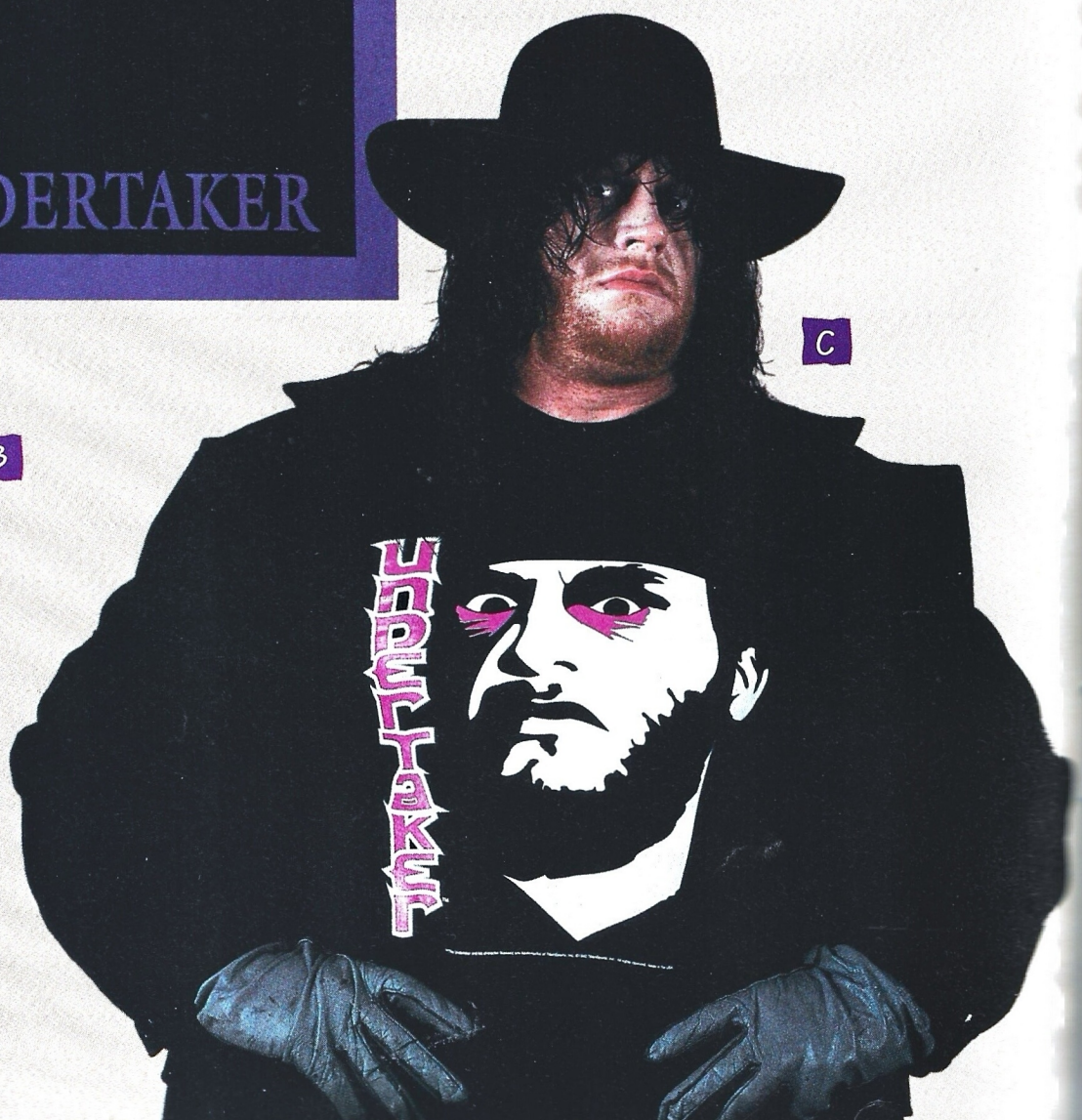
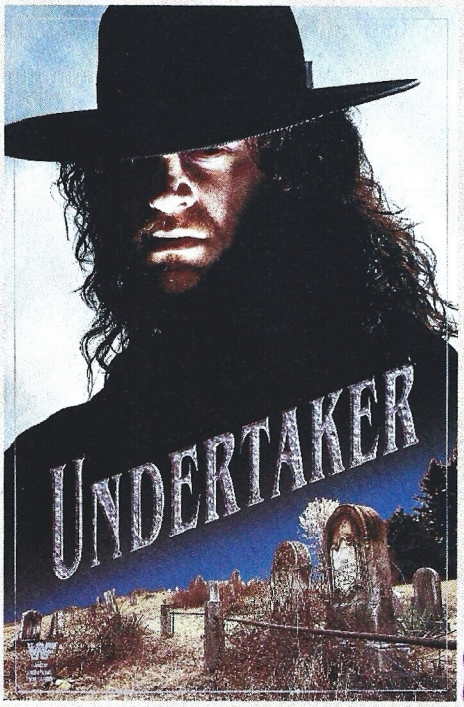
01-01007 - Large
01-01008 - X-Large

B

C





D

F

THE UNDERTAKER™

Weight: 328 pounds

From: Death Valley

Birthday: Unknown

Trademark finishing move: The Tombstone

Known for: Burying his opponents alive

Favorite quote: "Rest in peace..."

Titles held: WWF Championship Title

E

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H

D. NEW! UNDERTAKER™ POSTER

Full color, 23" x 35" **10-00252** ..... **$5.95 each**

E. UNDERTAKER™ BASEBALL HAT

All will be in awe when you wear our Undertaker baseball hat. In black, made of 100% cotton twill, features the Undertaker's logo. Adjustable to fit all, made in USA.

02-00153 ..... **$11.95 each**

F. NEW! UNDERTAKER™ TEDDY BEAR

Rest in peace as you snuggle up with this soft, 100% acrylic plush teddy bear. Dressed in traditional Undertaker garb. Our exclusive import.

16-00165 ..... **$19.95 each**

G. NEW! UNDERTAKER™ TUMBLER

Drink up your own brew with this 7-oz. acrylic tumbler. Features the Undertaker, non-toxic glittery liquid and spooky spiders floating within the double-wall construction. Hand wash only. Imported.

19-00132 ..... **$4.95 each**

H. REST IN PEACE T-SHIRT

This 100% cotton oversized T-shirt is deadly enough for you to wear all day or when the lights go out. Features a seemingly larger-than-life image of the Undertaker. Machine washable, made in USA. One size fits all.

01-00885 ..... **$19.95 each**

BRET "Hit Man" HART™

A

B

A. BRET "Hit Man" HART® NEON PINK SUNGLASSES

Bret "Hit Man" Hart's sunglasses now come in hot pink! Made with a tough, scratch-resistant mylar coating, they block out 99.7% ultraviolet light. Adjustable strap. Made in USA. **17-00125 .....$5.95 each**

B. NEW! BRET "Hit Man" HART™ WRISTBANDS

Deliver the look of a real sharpshooter when you wear Bret's wristbands. Each set includes two wristbands in Bret's signature colors. Machine washable, made in USA. **03-00139 .....$5.95 each set**

C. NEW! BRET "Hit Man" HART™ T-SHIRT

Bret Hart's image is "splashed" on this white 50/50 cotton/poly T-shirt. For a hot look, team the shirt with Bret's sunglasses and wristbands sold above.

Priced at.....$15.95 each

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01-01011 - Large	01-01012 - X-Large

C

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D. BRET "Hit Man" HART™ BEAR

Add this "Hart"-warming bear to your collection. Complete with Bret Hart's sunglasses and wrestling gear. 15", made of 100% soft acrylic plush. Our exclusive import. **16-00159 .....$19.95 each**

E. BRET "Hit Man" HART™ OVERSIZED T-SHIRT

Our neon pink oversized Hit Man tee is perfect for fans of all ages. Made in the USA of 50 cotton/50 poly, wear it as a nightshirt or to the beach and pool along with our Hit Man sunglasses sold on page 4 for a look with Hart! One size fits all. **01-00604 .....$19.95 each**

F. NEW! BRET "Hit Man" HART™ POSTER

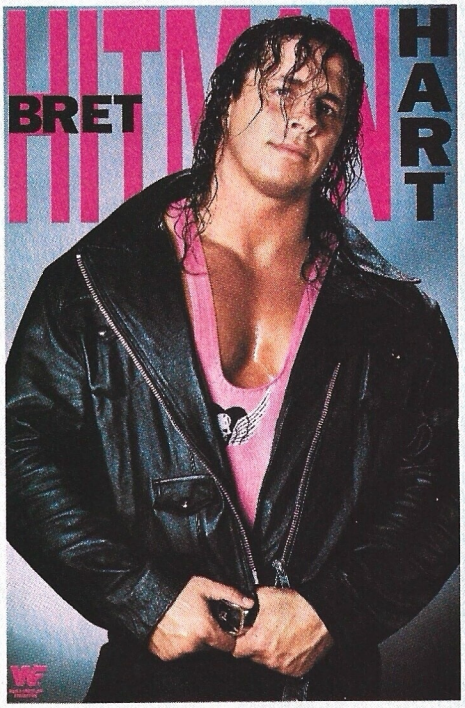
Full-color, 23" x 35" **10-00253 .....$5.95 each**

G. BLACK BRET "Hit Man" HART™ T-SHIRT

This 50/50 cotton/poly T-shirt is a favorite of Bret fans. In black, featuring Bret in his classic pose. Machine washable, made in USA.

Priced at.....$15.95 each

01-00985 - Small 01-00986 - Medium
01-00987 - Large 01-00988 - X-Large



F

BRET "Hit Man" HART™

Weight: 234 pounds

From: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Birthday: July 2

Trademark finishing move: Sharpshooter

Known for: Having excellence of execution in the ring

Favorite quote: "The Hit Man's got you in his sights, baby."

Titles held: WWF Championship Title, Intercontinental Title (two times), co-held WWF Tag Team Title (two times)

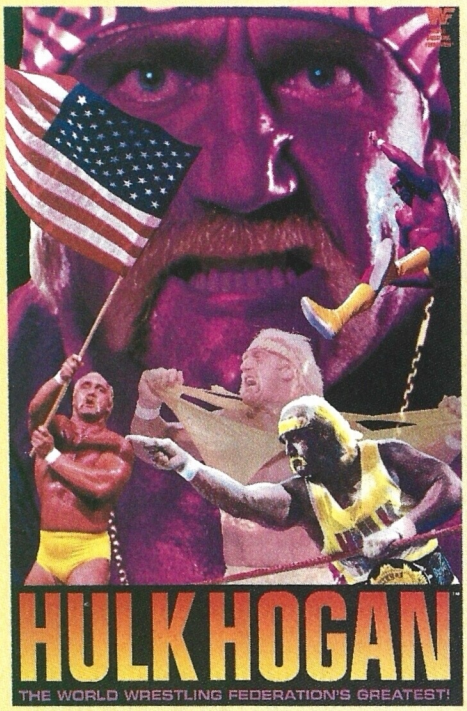
D

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

E

G

HULK HOGAN™



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A. HULK HOGAN™ COMMEMORATIVE POSTER

Full-color, 23" x 35" **10-00236 .....$5.95 each**

B. HULK HOGAN™ BLACK T-SHIRT

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Priced at.....$15.95 each

01-00880 - Small 01-00881 - Medium
01-00882 - Large 01-00883 - X-Large

C. HULK HOGAN™ WORKOUT BEAR

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D. HULKAMANIA™ BANDANA

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E. HULKAMANIA™ HAND-CUT T-SHIRT

Hulkamania will live forever on this classic hand-cut T-shirt. 50/50 cotton/polyester blend in yellow, with a bold Hulkamania logo, machine washable. Made in USA. **Priced at.....$15.95 each**

01-00876 - Small 01-00877 - Medium
01-00878 - Large

F. NEW! HULK HOGAN™ KEY CHAIN

Let the Hulkster keep hold of your keys with this coiled key chain. Flexible, made to fit wrists of all sizes, in Hulk's signature colors. **26-00110.....$4.95 each**

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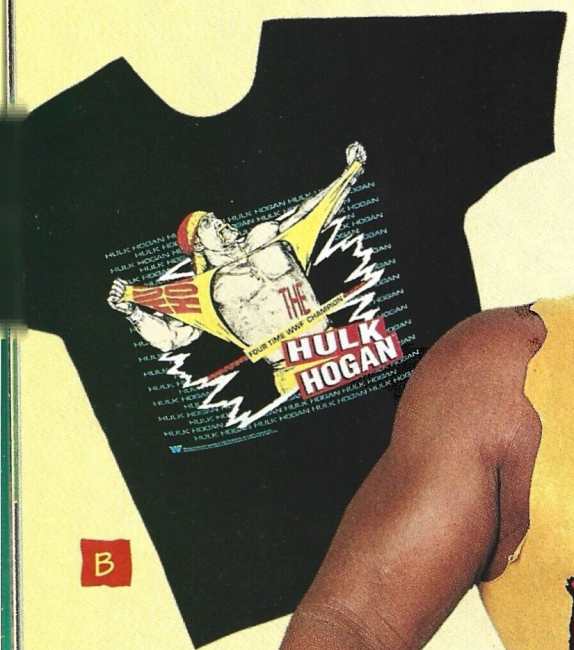

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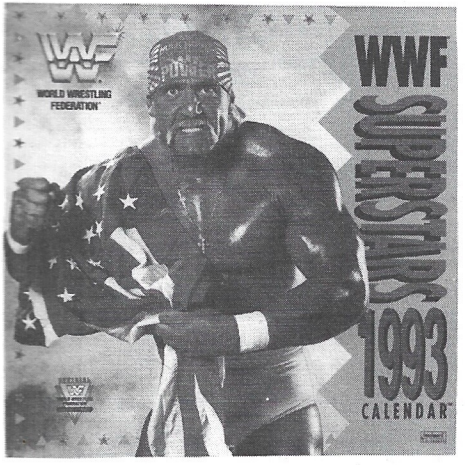

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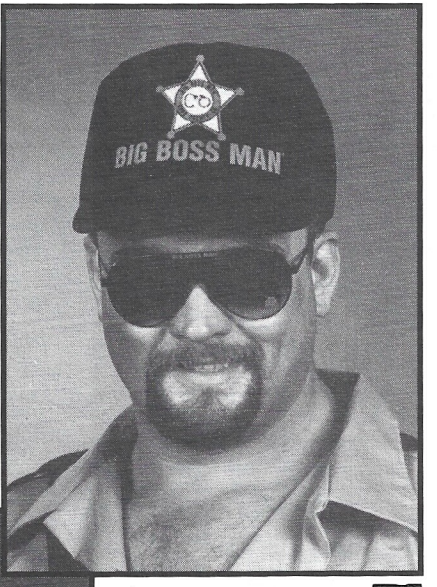

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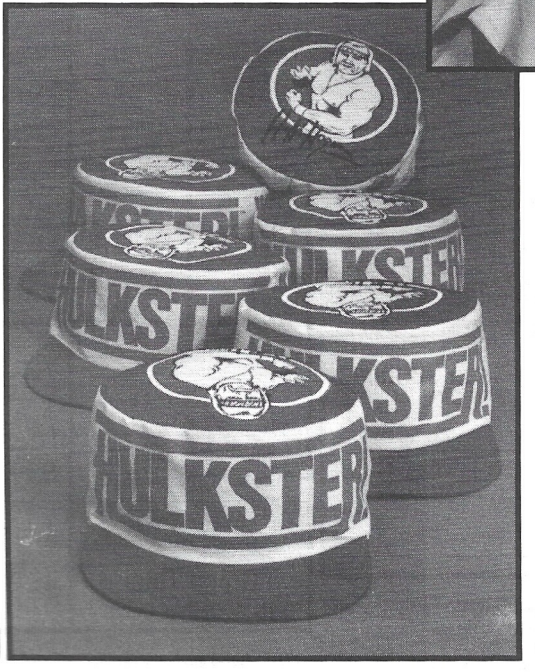

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A. 1993 WWF® SUPERSTARS™ CALENDAR

Count down a year full of action with our 1993 WWF Superstars calendar. Regularly priced at ~~$9.95~~.

62-00108 ..... *Now $4.95 each*

B. YOUTH-SIZED HULKSTER™ PAINTER'S CAP

The Hulkster Rules on this 100% cotton painter's cap with a bold yellow, red and blue design. One size with a back elastic insert fits up to age 12. Imported. Regularly priced at ~~$5.95~~.

02-00145 ..... *Now $2.95 each*

C. BIG BOSS MAN™ HAT

Justice won't be served until you wear this black poly/mesh baseball hat designed especially for the Big Boss Man. Made in USA, features the Big Boss Man's logo, with adjustable strap to fit all. Regularly priced at ~~$11.95~~.

02-00129 ..... *Now $5.95 each*

WWF® Gift Certificates Available

90-00102	$10.00
90-00103	$15.00
90-00104	$20.00
90-00105	$25.00

MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE®

A. MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE™ SUNGLASSES

These sizzling neon sunglasses are perfect for the beach, on the slopes or anywhere. Imprinted with the Macho Man logo, these multicolored rubber-framed glasses are adjustable for a perfect fit. Features UV dark gray lenses. **17-00128 .....$7.95 each**

B. MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE® POSTER

Full-color, 23" x 35" **10-00237 .....$5.95 each**

C. MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE™ BANDANA

Macho Madness headwear prevails with this bright purple, black and white 22" x 22" bandana. Printed with the Macho Man's own famous words, "Oh Yeah," this cotton/poly blend bandana comes complete with tying instructions. Made in USA. **03-00134.....$5.95 each**

D. NEW! MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE™ T-SHIRT

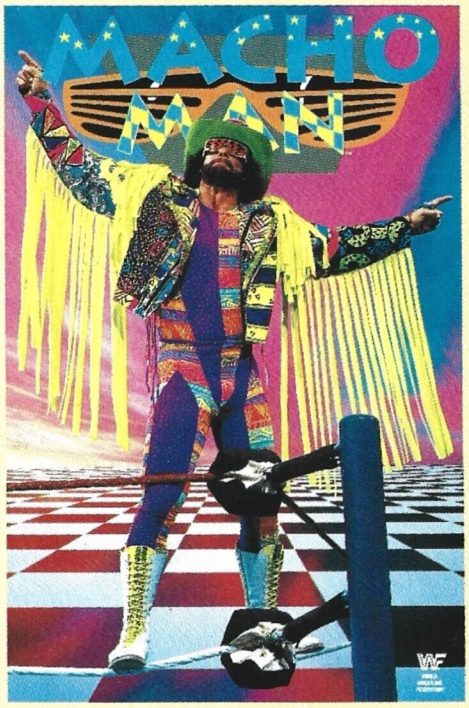
Pair the latest in Macho Man apparel with the sunglasses and bandana sold above for a totally "Savage" look! This white 50/50 cotton/poly blend T-shirt is machine washable and American-made.

Priced at.....$15.95 each

01-01001 - Small 01-01002 - Medium
01-01003 - Large 01-01004 - X-Large

E. MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE™ TEDDY BEAR

Even someone as Macho as Randy Savage could not resist this soft, huggable teddy bear. Complete with Randy's trademark sunglasses, bandana and colorful costume, this 15" tall, 100% acrylic plush bear is our exclusive import. **16-00164 .....$19.95 each**



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HULK HOGAN™

Weight: 303 pounds

From: Venice Beach, CA

Birthday: August 11

Known for: Being a hero to millions of Hulkamaniacs the world over

Favorite quote: "Train, say your prayers, eat your vitamins and believe in yourself."

Titles held: WWF Championship Title (four times)

MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE®

Weight: 245 pounds

Birthday: November 15

From: Sarasota, Florida

Trademark finishing move: Elbow off the top ropes

Known for: His polished ability and killer instinct

Favorite quote: "Oh yeah! Dig it!"

Titles held: WWF Championship Title (two times), Intercontinental Title

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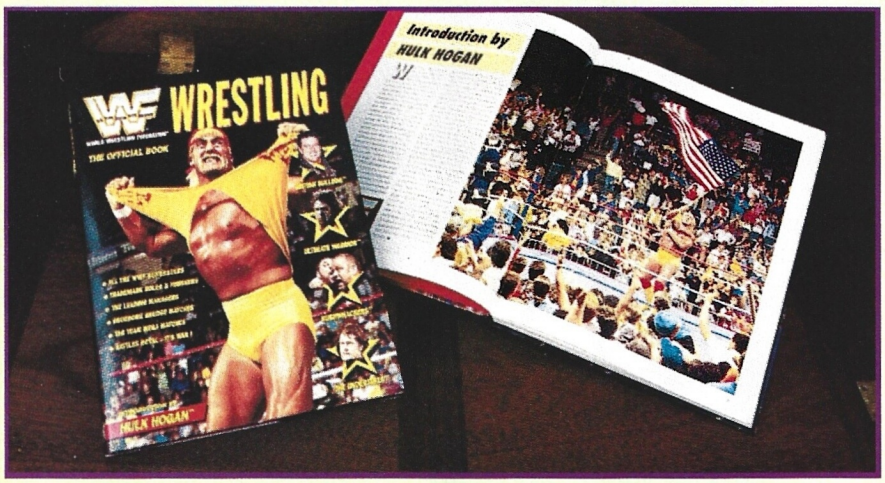
WWF® NOVELTIES



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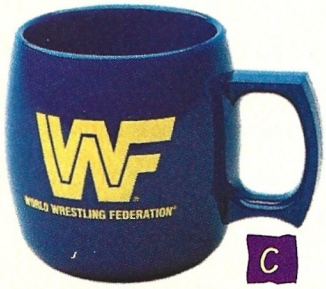

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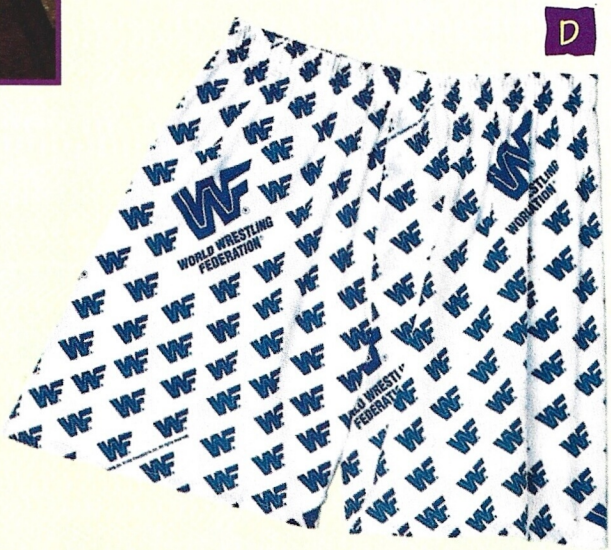

A. NEW! WWF® WRESTLING: THE OFFICIAL BOOK

Relive the incredible history of the World Wrestling Federation within this 160-page, hardcover book. Inside you'll meet your favorite WWF Superstars and their managers. Amazing photos detail mega match-ups. A true collector's item. **89-00164 .....$15.95 each**

B. NEW! I LUV WWF® BUTTON

Proudly display the hottest logo around with this 2-1/2" diameter button. Safety pin back. Made in USA.
18-00104 .....$2.95 each

C. WWF® ACRYLIC MUG

Take a break between matches with our 9-oz. acrylic mug. In royal blue with a vibrant two-sided WWF logo, top-rack dishwasher and microwave safe.
19-00126 .....$7.95 each

D. NEW! WWF® BOXER SHORTS

WWF logos run wild on these woven 100% cotton boxers. Elastic waist, tacked fly front. Machine washable, made in USA. Adult sizes only.
Priced at .....$11.95 each

06-00213 - Small	06-00214 - Medium
06-00215 - Large	06-00216 - X-Large

E. WWF® SPORTS BAG

The ultimate carry-all bag! A roomy 18" x 9" with adhesive-close side pockets, web handles and adjustable shoulder strap. In black with a bold two-sided WWF logo, plus royal blue and yellow trimmed sides. Made of super-sturdy PVC-backed nylon.
25-00106 .....$17.95 each

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

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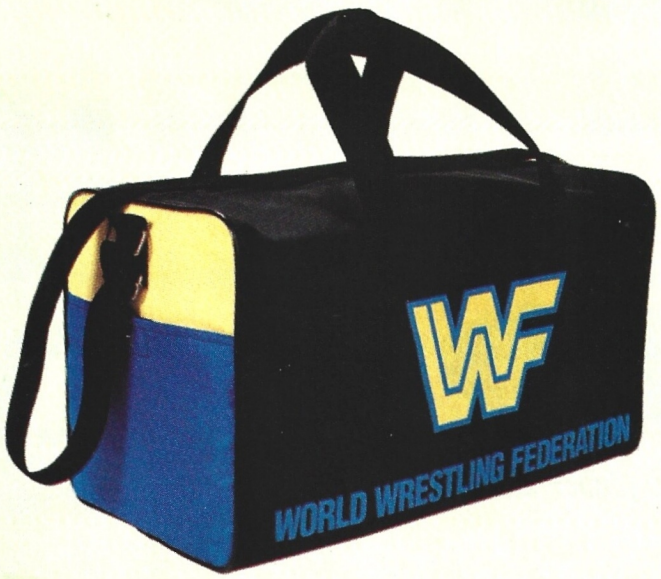

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F. NEW! WWF® SUPERSTAR™ PLACEMAT

WWF Superstars make mealtime fun with this heat-resistant, easy-wipe-clean placemat. Features full-color photos of Macho Man Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, British Bulldog and Undertaker. Imported.

19-00136 .....$2.95 each

G. NEW! PLASTIC CUP SET IV

Back by popular demand! Collect your favorite WWF Superstars on our fourth series of four giant 32-oz. fluted plastic cups. Includes Macho Man Randy Savage, British Bulldog, Natural Disasters™ and Big Boss Man™. Top rack dishwasher safe. Made in USA.

19-00131 .....$4.95 per set

H. WWF® BASEBALL HAT

Headlining our WWF collection is this 100% cotton twill baseball cap. In blue with a contrasting neon logo, team it with our WWF button sold on page 8 for the look of a winner. **02-00154 .....$11.95 each**

I. NEW! WWF® SUPERSTAR™ WALL CLOCK

Don't miss a minute of WWF action with the WWF Superstar wall clock. 10" diameter, requires one AA battery (not included). Boxed for gift giving.

38-00108 .....$11.95 each

I

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WWF® PARTY TIME

A. WWF® SUPERSTAR™ PARTY PACK

Throw a ringside party with the WWF party pack. Includes eight luncheon napkins, eight 7" plates, eight hot/cold cups and one 54" x 96" tablecover. Features your favorite WWF Superstars designed to make yours the "champ" of all parties.

89-00152.....$7.95 each pack

B. WWF® SUPERSTAR™ PARTY EXTRAS

Keep the party going with these WWF party extras. Features eight invitiations, eight loot bags, eight blowouts and one 33-1/2" x 65" door decoration. A perfect addition to the WWF Superstar Party Pack sold above. **89-00163.....$9.95 each**

C. NEW! WWF® SUPERSTARS™ CAKE PAN

No WWF party would be complete without your favorite WWF Superstar making an appearance. Now you can choose to have Hulk Hogan, Macho Man Randy Savage or Big Boss Man join in the fun. This aluminum cake pan comes complete with decorating instructions. Measures 13-1/4" x 12-3/4" x 2". **19-00135 ...$9.95 each**

C

D. NEW! WWF® COOKIE CUTTER SET

Our four-piece cookie cutter set includes molded shapes of Macho Man Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, Big Boss Man and the WWF logo. Bake a batch for the Superstars in your family! Made in USA.

17-00139.....$4.95 per set

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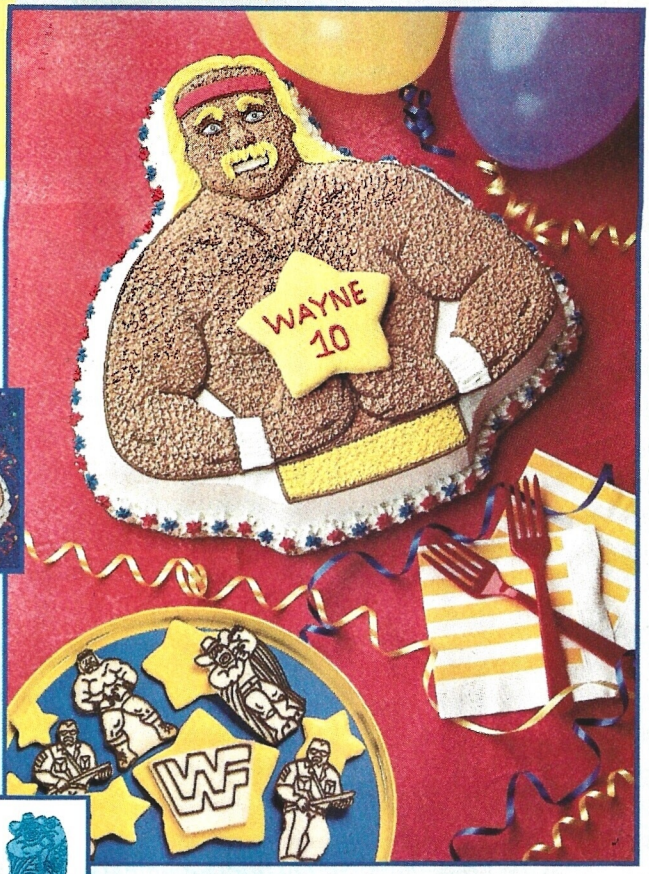

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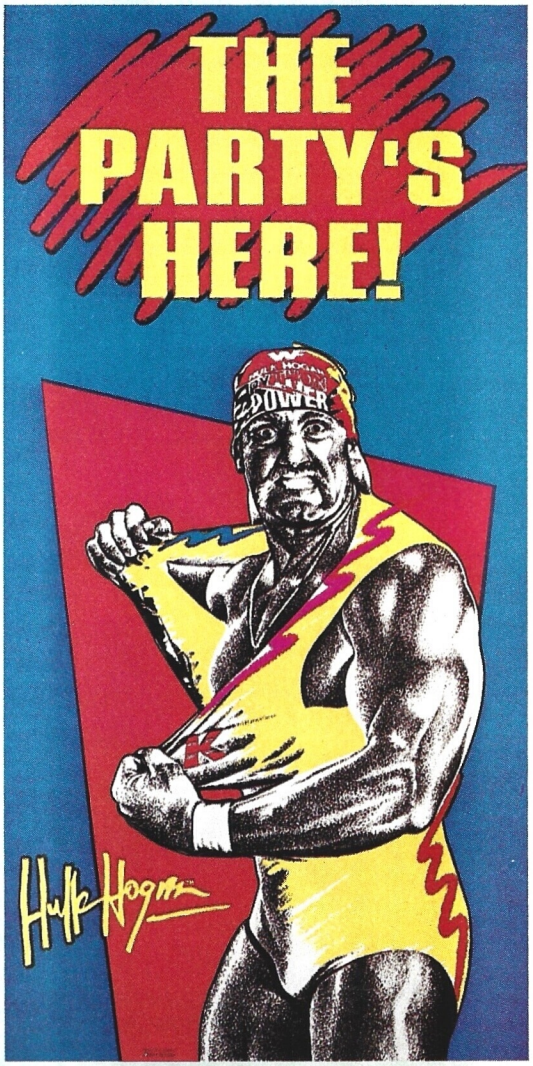

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WWF® KIDS' CORNER

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

A. NEW! HULKAMANIA™ JUICE BOX HOLDER

Keep strong little Hulkamaniacs from squeezing and squirting their juice with this dishwasher-safe juice box holder. Fits one standard-size juice box. Made in USA. **19-00134 .....$1.95 each**

B. WWF® CHAMPIONSHIP BELTS

Our line of WWF Championship Belts is now complete with styles for the WWF Champion, Intercontinental Champion and Tag Team Champion. Each belt is American made, 41-3/4" x 3", made of foam and plastic emblazoned with the championship title and WWF logos. Now you can hold each title, making yourself the best WWF Champion ever! Instructions included.

Priced at.....$13.95 each

06-00125.....WWF Championship Belt
06-00138.....WWF Intercontinental Belt
06-00149.....WWF Tag Team Belt

C. NEW! MY FIRST WWF® SUPERSTAR™ T-SHIRT

This adorable 50/50 cotton/poly T-shirt is sized just for your little WWF Superstar. Machine washable, made in USA. **Priced at .....$9.95 each**

Size		Size	
2 – 4	01-01021	6 – 8	01-01022

D. NEW! MACHO MAN RANDY SAVAGE™ YOUTH-SIZED PAINTER'S CAP

This colorful 100% cotton painter's cap features outrageous images for which the Macho Man is famous. Elastic insert to fit up to age 12. Imported. **02-00162 .....$5.95 each**

E. NEW! WWF® SUPERSTAR™ SOCKS

Put your best foot forward with socks featuring colorful graphics of Ultimate Warrior and Hulk Hogan. Cotton/acrylic/spandex/nylon blend. Choose from black or white. Imported.

Priced at.....$5.95 a pair

Size	White	Black
5 – 6-1/2	06-00209	06-00224
6 – 8-1/2	06-00210	06-00225
9 – 11	06-00211	06-00226

F. NEW! WWF® SUPERSTAR™ ADHESIVE STRIPS

It's the WWF Superstars to the rescue with the official WWF adhesive strips! Features Hulk Hogan, Macho Man Randy Savage, Big Boss Man and Ric Flair™. 25 strips per box. Made in USA.

17-00140.....$2.95 per box

G. NEW! WWF® SUPERSTAR™ BOYS BRIEF

These Fruit of the Loom® boys briefs are made to stand the rough and tumble action of your little WWF Superstar. American-made, Superband® waistband, traditional brief with fly. 100% cotton, machine washable. Set of three briefs per package featuring Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior and Legion of Doom™.

Priced at.....$7.95 per package

Size		Size	
2	06-00218	4	06-00219
6	06-00220	8	06-00221

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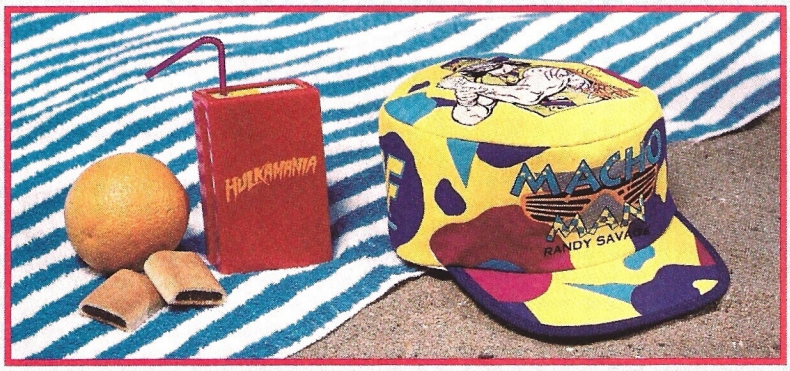

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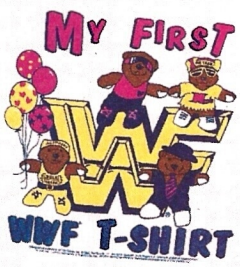

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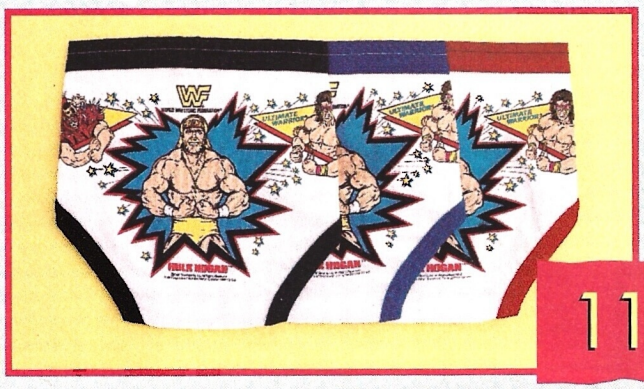

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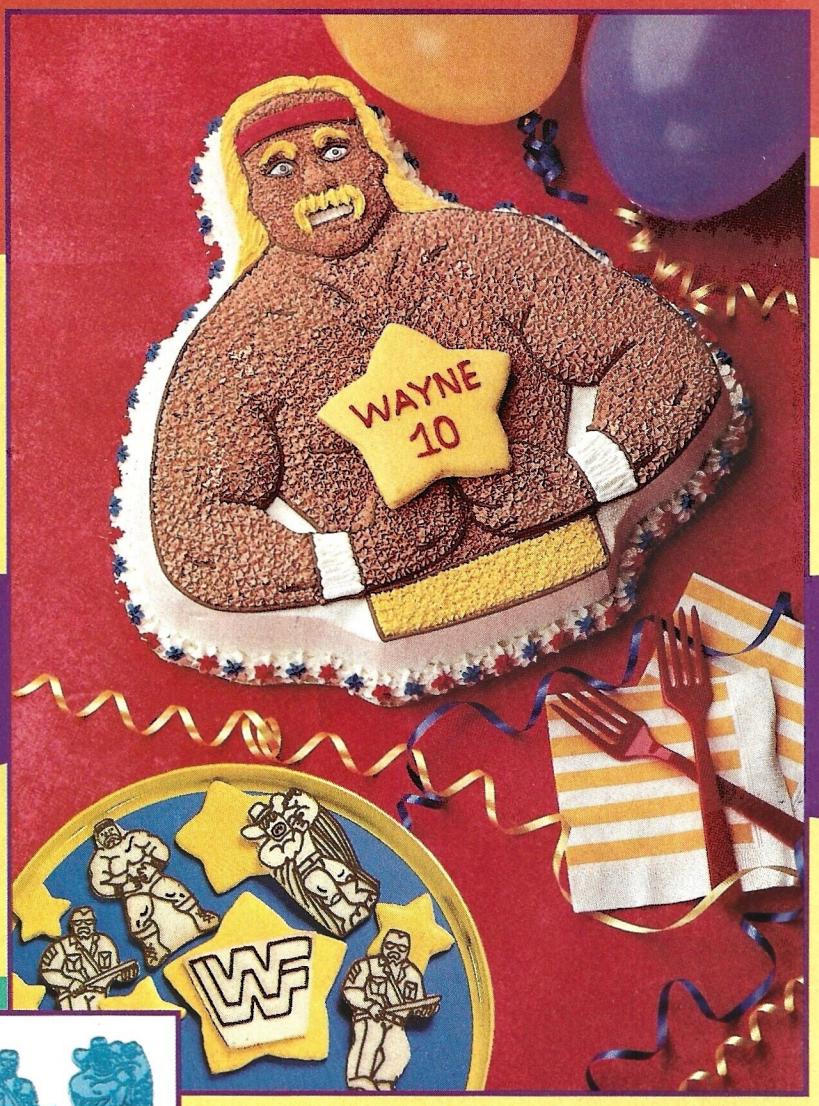
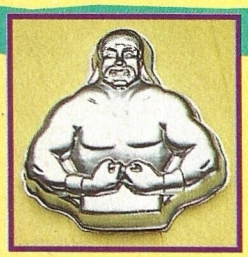
NEW!

WWF® Superstar™ cake pan and cookie cutters. See page 10 for details on these and other WWF party-time favorites.





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Dear WWF Fans:

As you turn the pages of our Spring/Summer 1993 Merchandise Catalog, feel the heat of the hottest products the WWF has to offer! We've continued our FREE WWF LIVE EVENT TICKET OFFER*, plus we've devoted an entire page to helping you make your WWF Superstar celebration the best party in town - see page 10 for details.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Shirley Adams

Shirley Adams

***See order form for details!**

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Mail to: World Wrestling Federation
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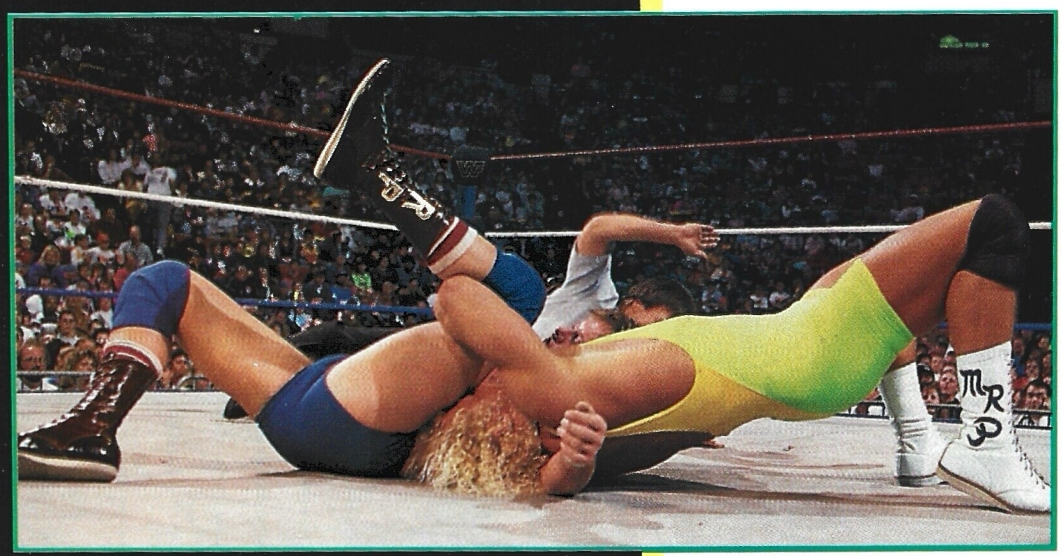
AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. P

PERFEC

PR

BY LOU GIANFRIDDO



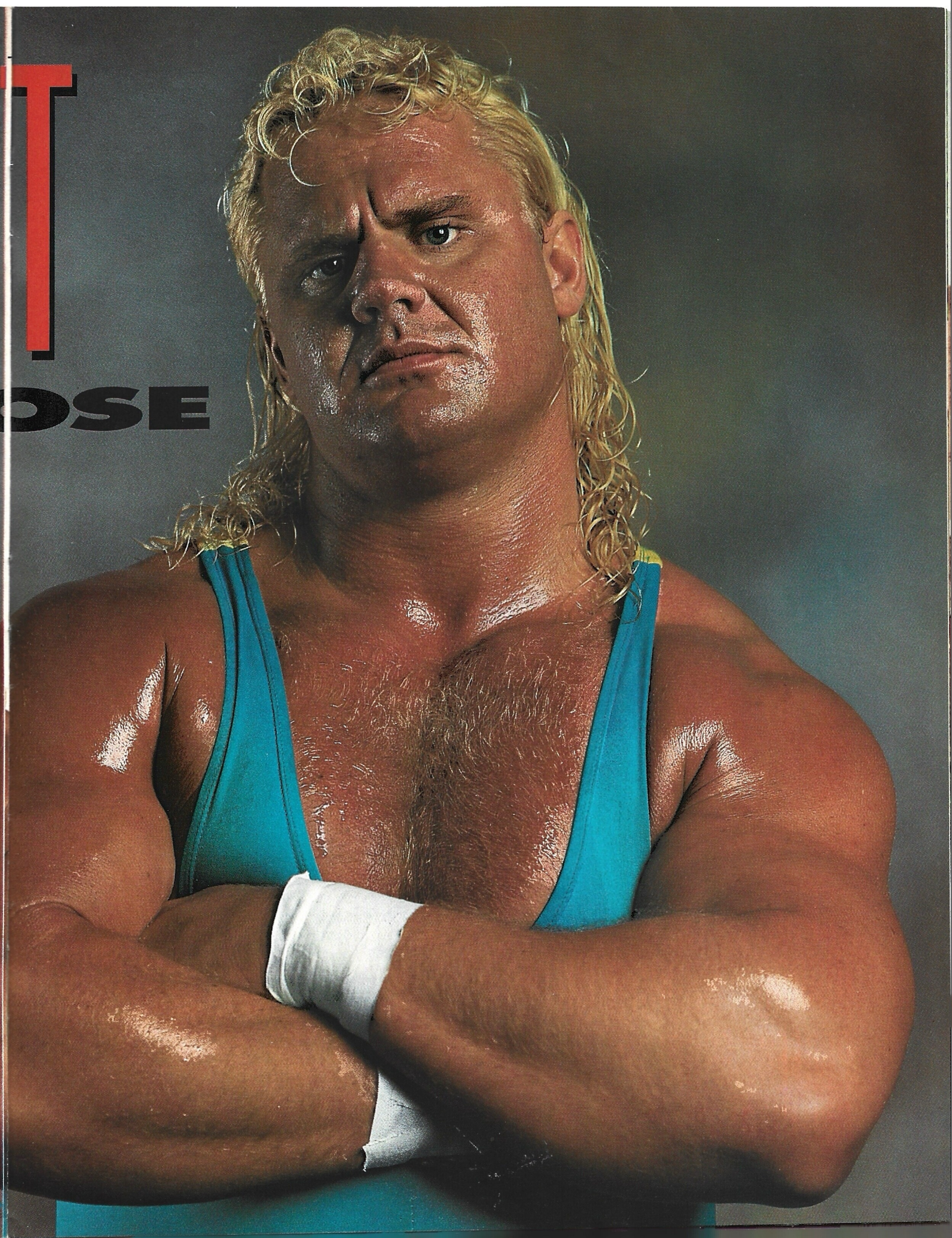
MR. PERFECT HAS PROVED HIS METTLE IN THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION. SINCE HE MADE HIS DEBUT IN THE SPRING OF 1988, PERFECT HAS LIVED UP TO HIS REPUTATION. A WRESTLING VIRTUOSO, HE HAS OUTMANEUVERED MANY PHENOMENAL SUPERSTARS AND HAS BEATEN THE BIGGEST NAMES IN WRESTLING, INCLUDING A COUNT-OUT WIN OVER THE IMMORTAL HULK HOGAN IN 1989. PERFECT WON THE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS, AN ACCOMPLISHMENT ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF WRESTLERS HAVE REALIZED.

PERFECT, AS THIS ISSUE OF *SPOTLIGHT* INDICATES, IS ALSO AN ACCLAIMED ATHLETE OUTSIDE THE SQUARED CIRCLE. HE HAS EARNED HIS STRIPES IN EVERY SPORT FROM GOLF TO BASKETBALL AND HAS RECENTLY BEEN SEEN WITH MIKE MODANO OF THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE'S MINNESOTA NORTH STARS AND STEVE JORDAN OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S MINNESOTA VIKINGS.

SPOTLIGHT MAGAZINE RECORDED THIS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE PERFECT ONE.

Spotlight: When you joined the World Wrestling Federation, you immediately established yourself as a threat to every major wrestling superstar. Your tenacity in the ring and impressive winning streak attracted attention, particularly from Bobby Heenan, who was a manager at the time. What compelled you to align yourself with him?

Perfect: I guess you can say it was a perfect mistake. After all, Mr. Perfect didn't need Bobby Heenan then, and I don't need him now. I'm perfect, for crying out loud! At the time, though, I thought that Bobby Heenan would make the world change for Mr. Perfect, and for a while he did. He got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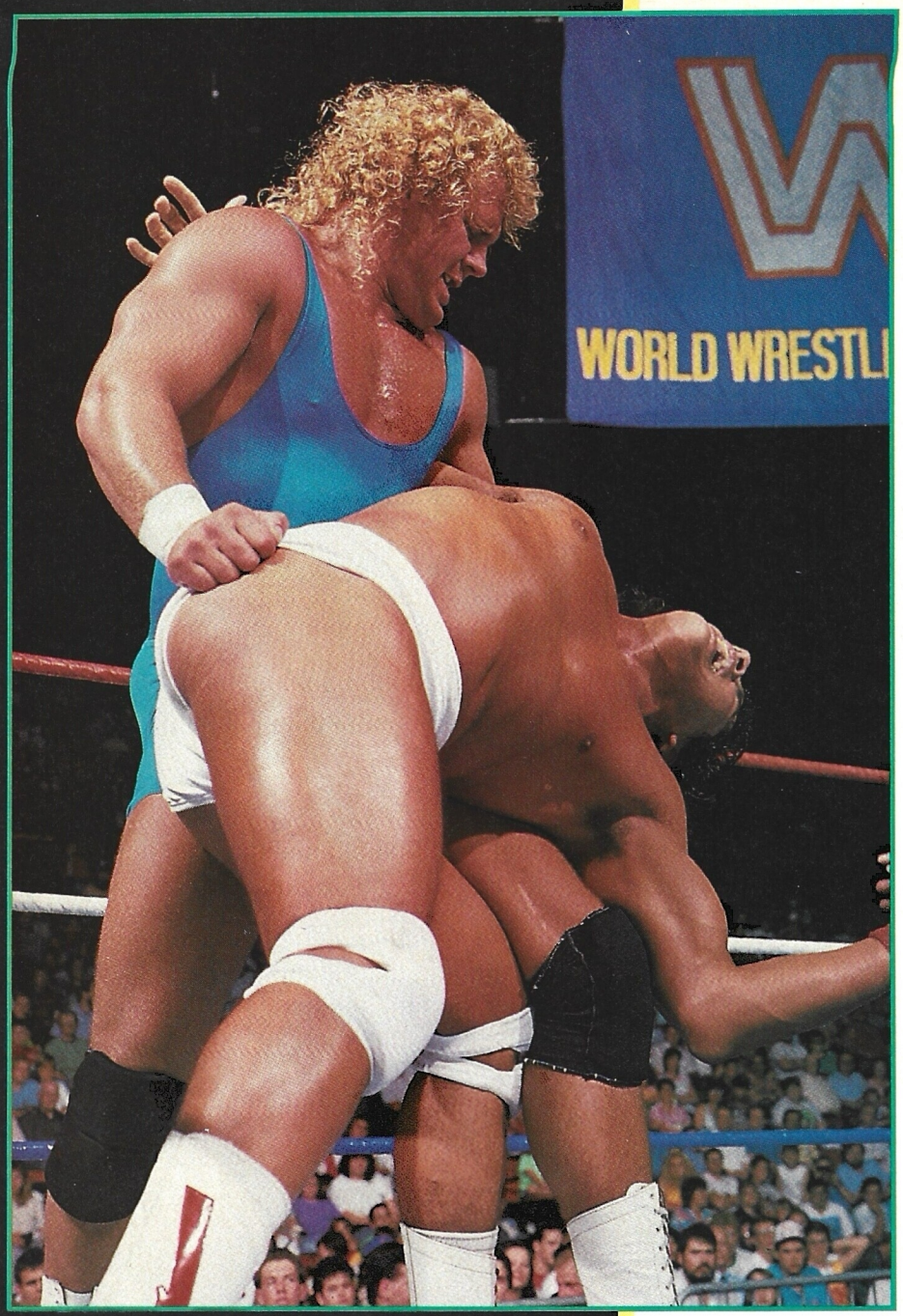

"I PROVED THE WEASEL AND THE RAZOR WRONG. I SHOWED THEM THAT I WAS PERFECT FROM THE BEGINNING AND THAT I'LL BE PERFECT TO THE BITTER END."

me title shots against Hulk Hogan (*who was the titleholder at the time*). *Everything was* champagne and caviar.

Spotlight: When did you realize that Bobby Heenan was concerned only with himself and his own personal gains?

Perfect: I'll be the first to admit that it took Mr. Perfect some time before I woke up and smelled the coffee. How could I complain? I was on a perfect winning streak. I was making perfect money, and I had the Intercontinental Title.

Spotlight: But Bobby Heenan misjudged the Texas Tornado's talents at *SummerSlam '90* and literally cost you the title. What did you think of that blunder?

Perfect: That was when I started to realize that maybe—just maybe—Bobby "The Brain" Heenan wasn't right for Mr. Perfect. Although I regained my belt a short time later, I began to see what kind of man Bobby Heenan is. Then when Bret Hart got lucky and beat Mr. Perfect for the belt at *SummerSlam '91*, I really saw what Bobby Heenan was all about. For several months Mr. Perfect was out of the action. I was at home and enjoying myself. I was taking easy. Not once did Bobby Heenan call, because if I wasn't around to line his pockets with cash, he didn't want anything to do with Mr. Perfect.

Spotlight: It all came to a head on *Primetime Wrestling* prior to the *Survivor Series* last November, didn't it?

Perfect: That's when Mr. Perfect showed the world what kind of a sniveling crumb the Weasel is. He tried to tell me what to do. He tried to keep me on the back burner so I couldn't threaten the likes of Razor Ramon and Ric Flair, whom Mr. Perfect eliminated from the Federation. Well, I proved the Weasel and the Razor wrong. I showed them that I was perfect from the beginning and that I'll be perfect to the bitter end. That was a hard pill for those guys to swallow, but hey, I'm

Mr. Perfect. They're not, nor will they ever be.

Spotlight: Speaking of Razor Ramon, he wants your head on a silver platter. Are you prepared to deal with this ruthless Cuban immigrant?

Perfect: Are you kidding me or what? Of course, Mr. Perfect is ready for Razor Ramon. You know, Razor Ramon has been saying that he oozes machismo. Well, Razor is oozing something all right, and whatever it is stinks! I know I can outwrestle Razor, and I know that I can pin his big, brawny shoulders to the mat. All I have to do is put the Perfect-plex on Razor Ramon, and the rest is history. That's right—another check etched into the winning column of the perfect record.

Spotlight: OK. How about the Narcissist Lex Luger? He's Bobby Heenan's latest find, and the broadcast journalist says that Luger will tear you limb from limb when you meet him in the ring.

Perfect: Bobby Heenan unveiled the Narcissist Lex Luger at the *Royal Rumble*. And Mr. Perfect has to say that I was a little impressed. Just a little. But if Luger thinks he's perfect or, as he says, "beyond perfect," then he's got another think coming. Mr. Perfect is the only perfect athlete in the World Wrestling Federation. I've proved that time and again. Be it in the ring, on the golf course, on the ice or on the shooting range, I'm perfect through and through. Sure, Lex Luger's got a great body. He's got the power and strength of 10 men. He's a superb wrestler, but he isn't perfect. I know that's hard to deal with, Lex, but the truth is always hard to deal with.

Spotlight: What else do you know about the Narcissist?

Perfect: Well, he is what he says he is. He loves himself. He loves to look at himself in the mirror. He loves his hair. He loves himself. He loves to flex his muscles. He loves himself. He loves his blue eyes. And, did I mention that he loves himself? Luger, you'd better look in that mirror if you know what's good for you, pal. Because sooner or later you're going to see Mr. Perfect's reflection, and I will show you that your looks are deceiving. Your wake-up call is on its way.

Spotlight: Thank you for your time, Mr. Perfect. WF

TRIVIA ANSWERS FROM PAGE 14

The answers to questions 1-25 are as follows: **A PERFECT BEGINNING** 1) Minnesota, 2) *Primetime Wrestling*, 3) the Perfect-plex, 4) "absolutely perfect," 5) February. **TITLES WON AND LOST** 6) because he also held the Championship Belt, 7) Tito Santana, 8) Texas Tornado, 9) Ted DiBiase, 10) Bret "Hit Man" Hart. **SIMPLY THE BEST** 11) neck, 12) horseshoes, 13) diving, 14) *Brainstorms*, 15) Hulk Hogan. **THE WORLD WAS WATCHING** 16) the Blue Blazer, 17) Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake, 18) Big Boss Man, 19) Haku and the Barbarian, 20) Macho Man Randy Savage (before they became partners). **BACK IN THE HIGH LIFE AGAIN** 21) Randy Savage, 22) no, 23) the Perfect Team, 24) Razor Ramon, 25) the Perfect Team, on a disqualification.

TOUGH STUFF SPOTLIGHT VOLUME 18 answers are: a) his dad, b) 20, c) panning for gold, d) November both years, e) Volume No. 5

TOUGH STUFF WINNERS VOLUME 18 Amy Lynch, Council Bluffs, IA; Terry Donnelly, Philadelphia, PA; Raul Ourique, Montreal, Canada; Ottis Trent, Pine Ridge, KY; Tim Glod, Cumberland, RI

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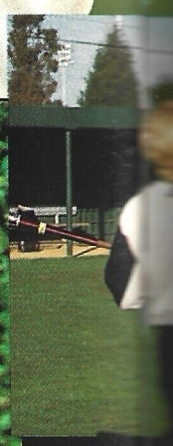
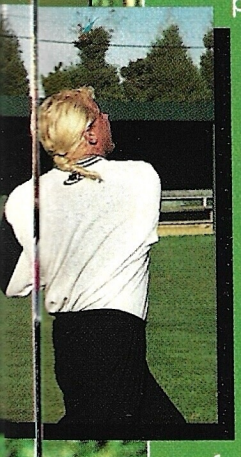


Perfect ATHLETE

By Lou Gianfriddo

In addition to possessing boundless wrestling ability, Mr. Perfect excels at dozens of other sports. According to his father, Larry "The Ax" Hennig, Mr. Perfect has always been an outstanding athlete.

"Ever since my boy was knee high, he was always great at sports," Hennig says about his son. "When he was 11, he made the all-star teams in both football and baseball. He was also perfect in individual sports, such as trapshooting and archery and, of course, amateur wrestling. In trap, he often shot 100 out of 100 clay pigeons. That was unheard of at the time! And to this day those who can accomplish a perfect score in either skeet or trap are few and far between."



However, nothing has changed. Mr. Perfect continues to astound the critics with his perfect athleticism. Recently, Perfect ran into Wade Boggs of the New York Yankees in Winter Haven, Florida. Boggs, who is a many-time all-star in the American Baseball League, was impressed with Perfect's hitting ability.

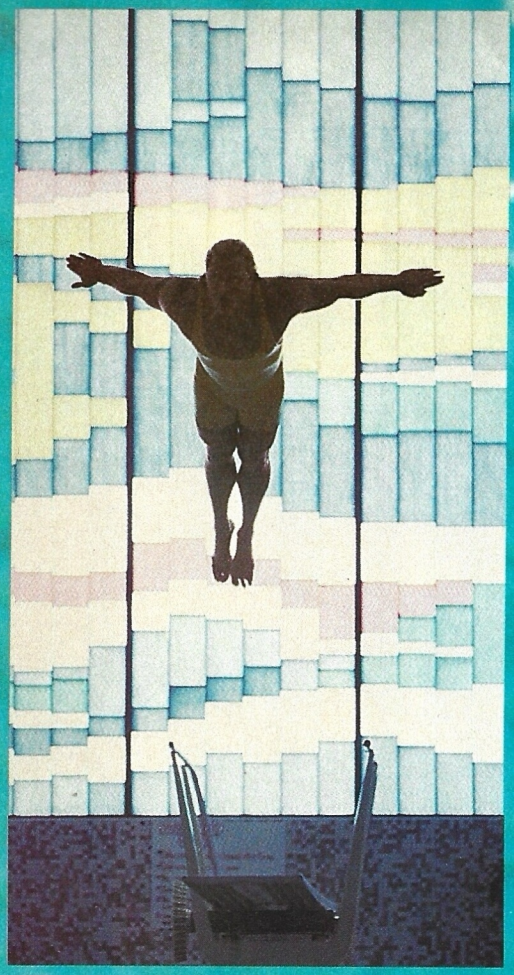
With Boggs watching from the on-deck circle, Perfect approached the plate and stared at the pitcher. Perfect spit on his palms and then pointed to the left field fence to designate where the next pitched ball would land. Not since the days of Babe Ruth has a man in the major leagues called where his shot would land.

Mr. Perfect kept his promise. The pitcher wound up and fired a fast one low and on the inside of the plate. Perfect, his eyes intense and face still, timed the speeding sphere and then blasted it into orbit. The ball cleared the fence and the trees in the distance.

Boggs arched his eyebrows, looked at the former two-time Intercontinental Champion and said, "That's perfect."

Over the years, the World Wrestling Federation cameras have followed Mr. Perfect from poolside—where he executed dives which would make even an Olympic diver envious—to the golf course and beyond. In fact, Perfect says he was once asked to go on tour with the Professional Golf Association after an anonymous official of the organization watched the wrestler sink a hole-in-one on a difficult 18-hole professional course in Arizona.

"The PGA wanted perfection on tour," remembers Perfect. "An official wanted Mr. Perfect to compete against the best golfers in the world. And Mr. Perfect is talking about world-class golfers such as defending Masters Champion Fred Couples and Nick Faldo who won the British Open. But Perfect



the Perfect ATHLETE

turned them down. Maybe when Mr. Perfect retires from the World Wrestling Federation, I'll try my hand at golf. And why not? I'm absolutely perfect at the game!"

Perfect can do the same on the basketball court. Perfect, who was an all-star high school center in Minnesota, can move on the court. He can outmaneuver the fastest and most agile athletes and can sink a basket from almost any point on the floor.

Our cameras caught up with Perfect practicing on the basketball court. He displayed flawless moves. He hit jump shots. He hit lay-ups. He even swished several shots from half-court and then from full-court.

"Mr. Perfect is just as comfortable with a basketball in my hands as I am Perfect-plexing another ring superstar," Mr. Perfect says. "I can make perfect shots from all parts of the basketball court."

Perfect can also make incredible shots with a pool cue in his hands. Perfect has played billiards for many years, and he particularly excels at a game called nine ball, which is one of the sport's most

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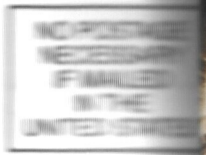

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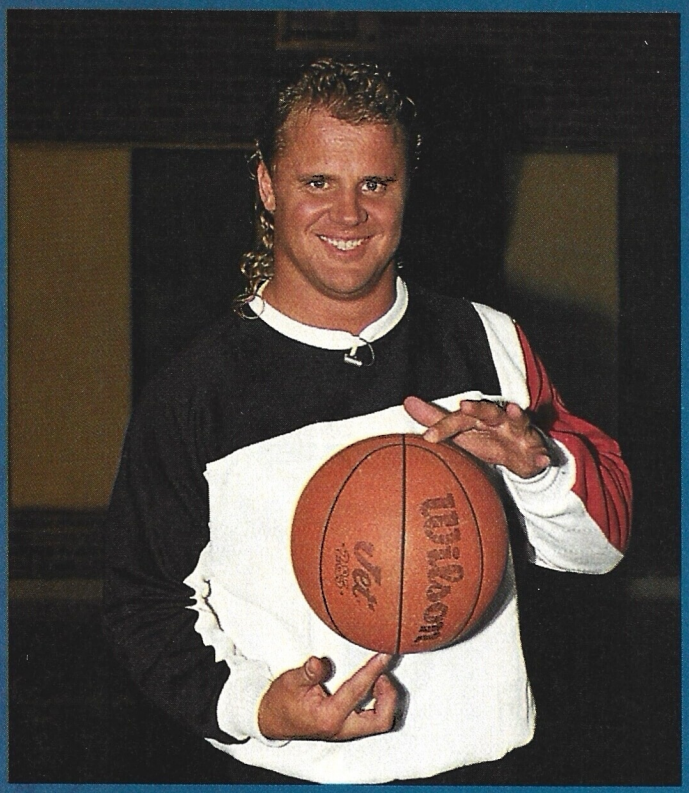
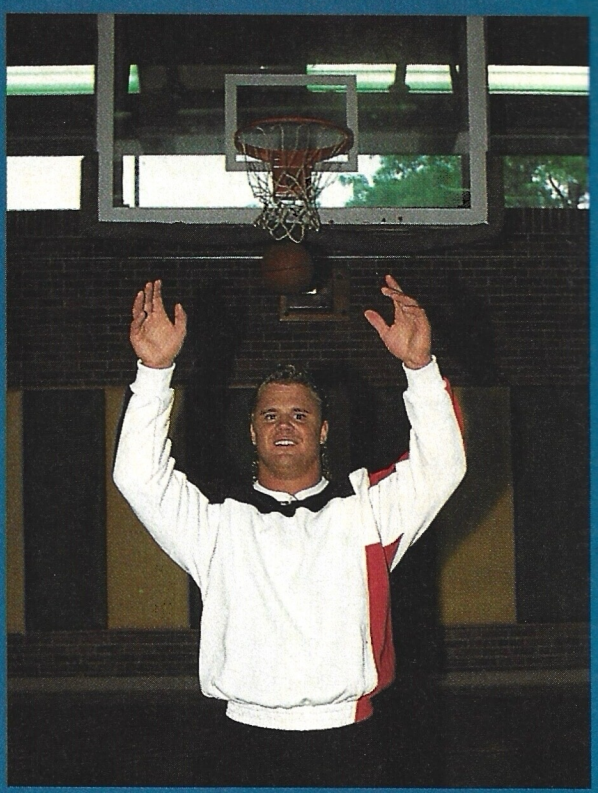




difficult games to master.

During a billiards match at a major hotel in Las Vegas, people were awestruck when they saw Perfect run the table, a process in which a player hits every ball into the pockets in rapid succession.

Perfect knows a lot about the sport. "Nobody can beat Mr. Perfect. Nobody," he says. "Mr. Perfect loves to play nine ball whenever I get a chance. And I'm just as good—no, scratch that. I'm absolutely perfect and better than most professionals on the touring billiards circuit. Just give Mr. Perfect a pool cue, a good table and a rack and the rest is perfection in motion."

Perfect can hit ringer after ringer in the horseshoe pit, a feat that would turn a backyard summer barbecue into a washout. Indoors, Perfect has been seen playing darts, a sport that has become increasingly popular as of late. Mr. Perfect can hit repeated bullseyes with ease.

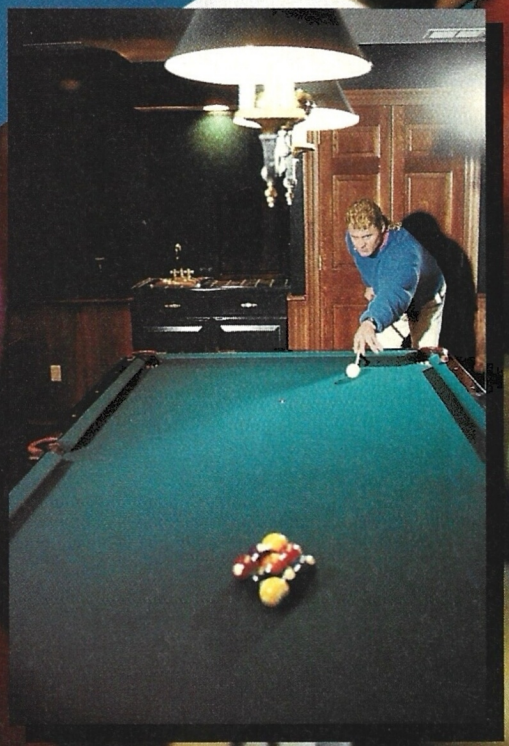
Perfect can use his mind just as well as he can use his body. Take chess, for example. Perfect studies the board, plots his strategies and then makes his moves. He says that he is unbeatable in the game, and many people would concur.

We spoke with a friend of Perfect's who has competed with him in both darts and chess. He claims that "Perfect's concentration is incredible. Once he zeroes in on the target, he never waivers. He's got perfect focus, which makes him almost impossible to beat."

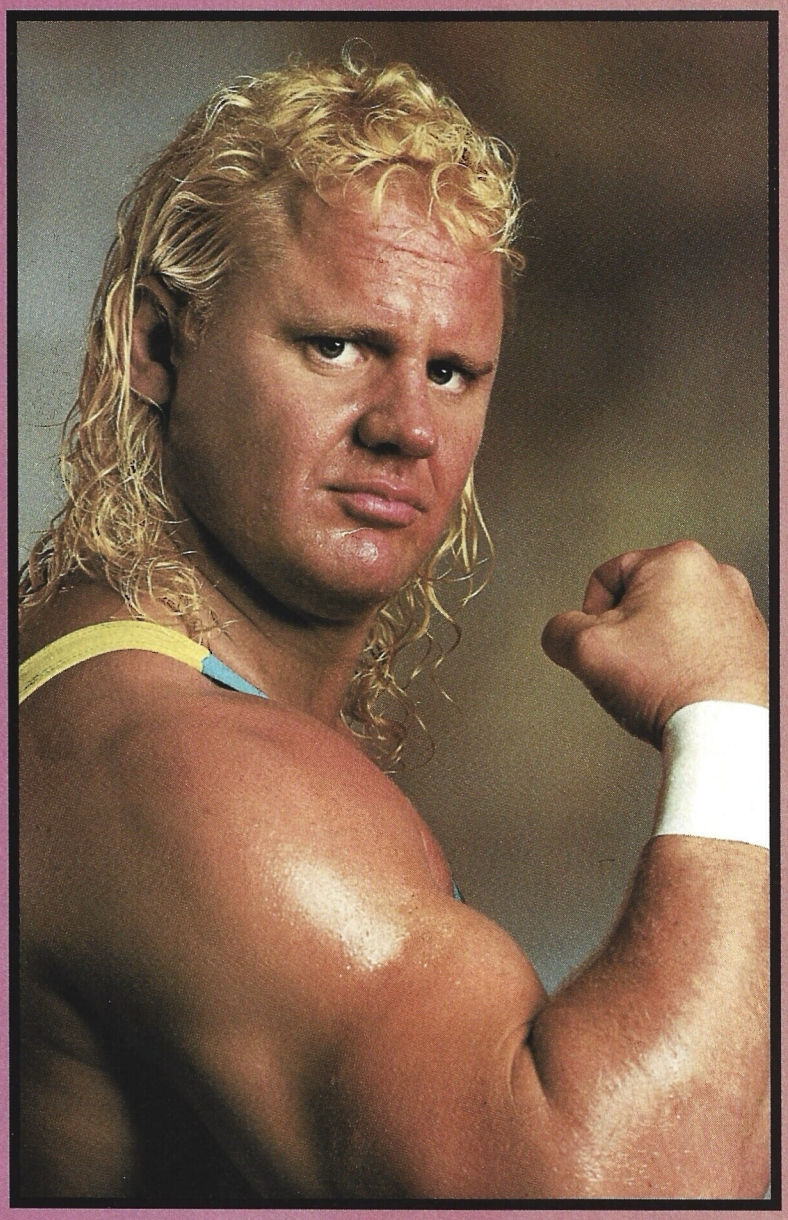
"Do you think it's easy being perfect?" asks Perfect. "Well, for me it is. That's right. From the chessboard to the wrestling ring, Mr. Perfect is what I say I am: perfect. And Mr. Perfect will prove that to anyone who says different. I'm talking about guys like Razor Ramon. Big man? Yes. Perfect? Not by a long shot. I'm talking about guys like Shawn Michaels. Intercontinental Champion? Not for long if he meets Mr. Perfect in the ring. And I'm talking about guys like the Narcissist Lex Luger. Great body? Yes. Perfect body? Not!

"Mr. Perfect can outwrestle all of these guys," continues Perfect, "and Mr. Perfect can outwit them in any other sport. And, believe you me, that is a perfect promise."

the Perfect ATHLETE



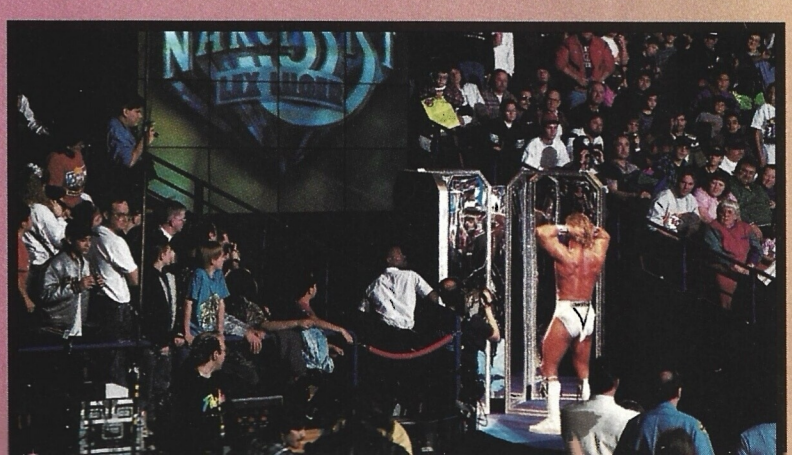
MR. PERFECT PREDICTS PERFECT W



Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, as millions know today, unveiled the Narcissist Lex Luger at the *Royal Rumble*. Luger posed for himself before a three-sided mirror, while Heenan extolled his virtues. Then, after the wrestler was satisfied with the reflection of his shapely physique, he told the world about himself.

In essence, Luger said he is the most gifted superstar ever to enter the World Wrestling Federation. He said that he possesses the greatest body and that he has the greatest wrestling ability. Luger said he was "beyond perfection" before he issued a challenge to Mr. Perfect.

Perfect, who couldn't stomach Luger's antics when he regularly appeared on *BodyStars* last year, accepted the challenge and will battle the Narcissist at *WrestleMania IX* in Las Vegas at Caesars Palace. Perfect is ready for Luger and says he will teach the conceited superstar a wrestling lesson when they meet at *WrestleMania IX*. This match, which would be a main event-caliber match in any arena in the world, is just one of many matches inked for *WrestleMania*. In addition to the Perfect-Luger clash, fans across the globe will see World Wrestling Federation Champion Bret "Hit Man" Hart put his belt on the line against Yokozuna



RESTLEMANIA OUTCOME

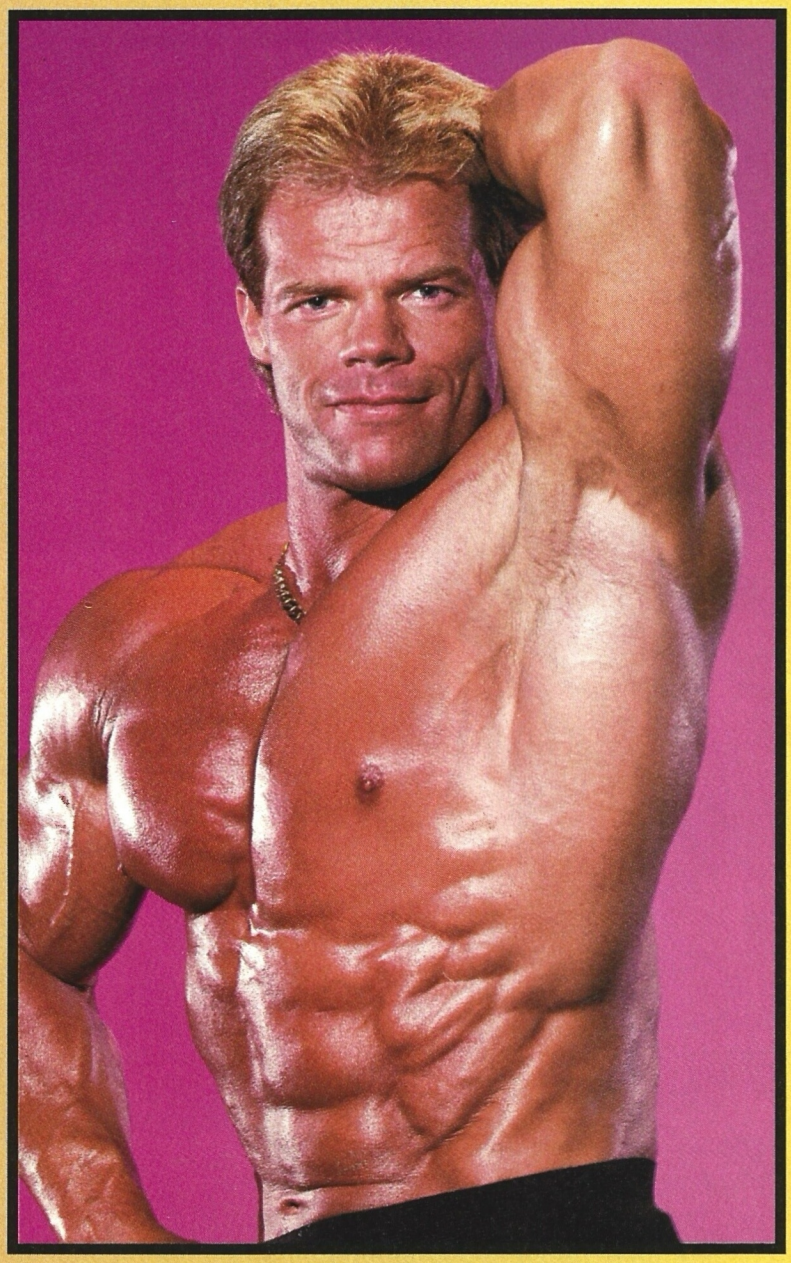
Then there will be no more flexing. Then there will be no preening. Then there will be no more bragging. And do you know why? It's simple:There will be no more Lex Luger in the World Wrestling Federation after he gets Perfect-plexed by Mr. Perfect at *WrestleMania IX*." WF

and the Undertaker collide with the mammoth, Giant Gonzales.

"Who does this Lex Luger guy think he is?" asks Mr. P. "He's calling himself a Narcissist and says that he's 'beyond perfection.' Give me a break, Luger. You're not even close to being perfect, like Mr. Perfect, and there's no way—I mean, no way—that you are beyond perfection.

"I've been watching you, Luger," continues Mr. Perfect. "I've been watching you in the ring, and I've been watching you strut your stuff outside the ring. Frankly, Mr. Perfect is disgusted with your conceit and with your attitude. I'd like to wipe the mat with your stinking face.

"As a matter of fact," Perfect adds, "that's exactly what Mr. Perfect will do when you and I hook up at *WrestleMania IX*. Mr. Perfect will wipe the mat with Lex Luger's face.



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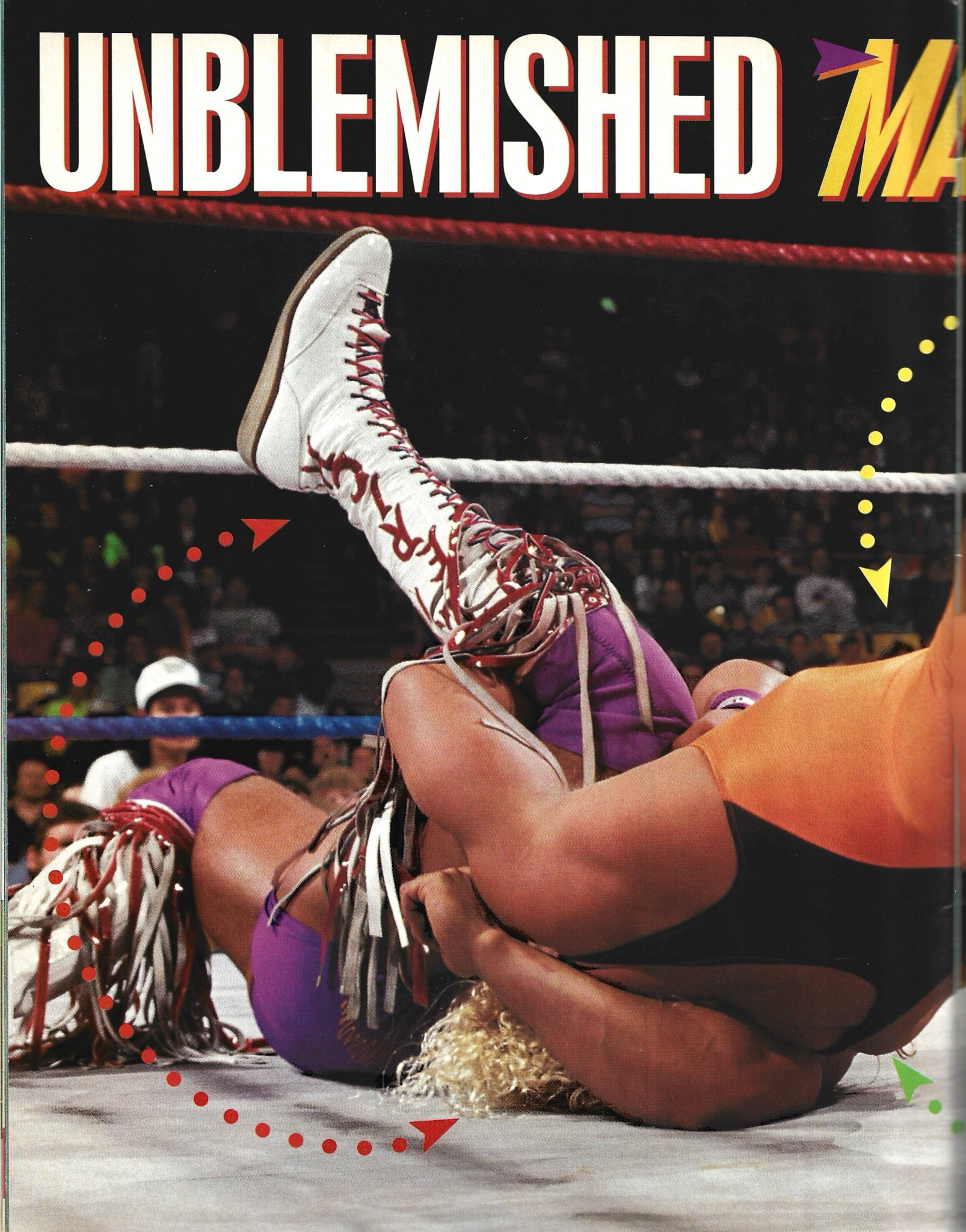

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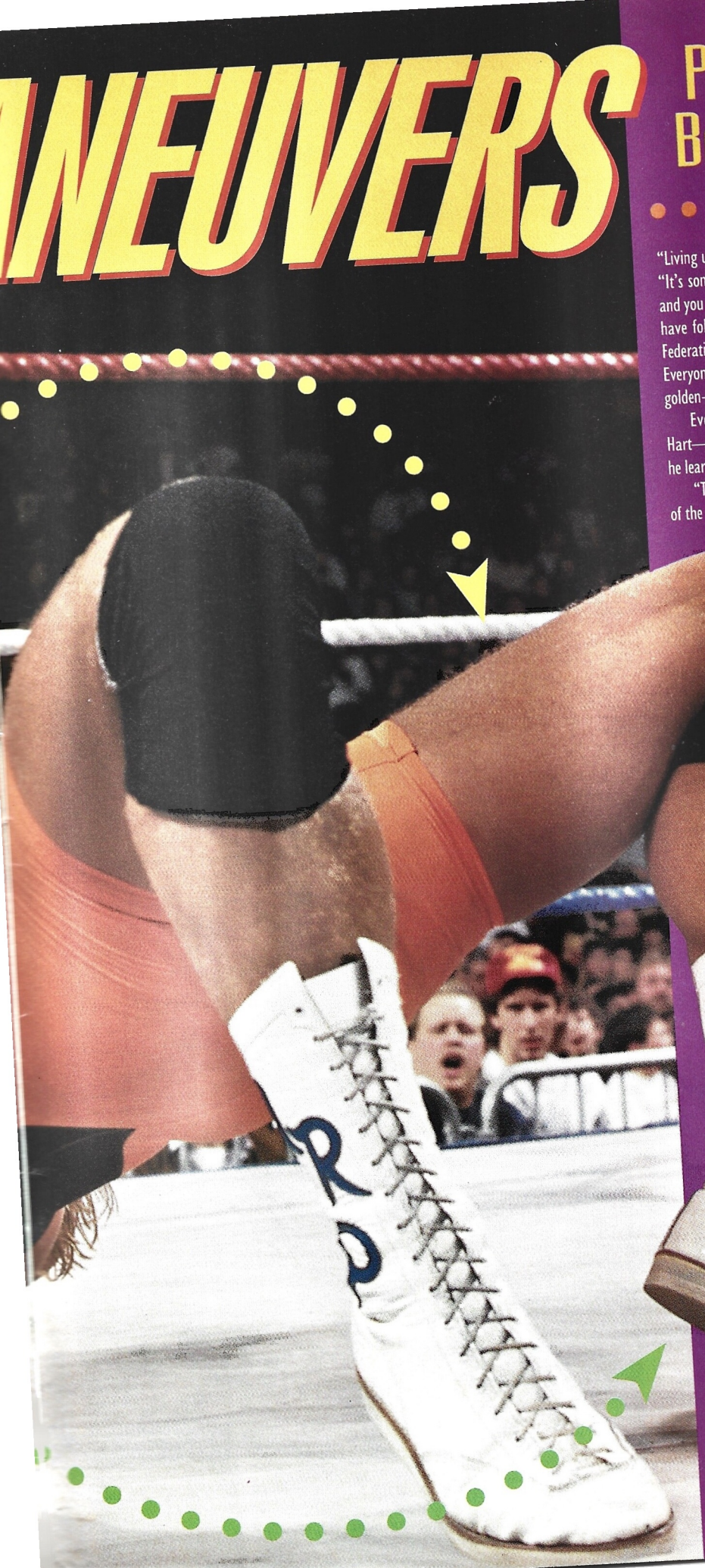


Perfect's Mastery Between The Ropes

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

"Living up to your boasts," Mr. Perfect begins a discourse on one of his favorite topics. "It's something a man can't do very easily. You need the brains, you need the talent and you need the technique." His face widens into a sunny grin. In times past, he would have followed up his comment by mentioning that nobody in the World Wrestling Federation understood technique better than he did. Now he just lets his smile say it all. Everyone present realizes that when it comes to locking up and tussling on the mat, the golden-haired gladiator is...well, pretty close to perfect.

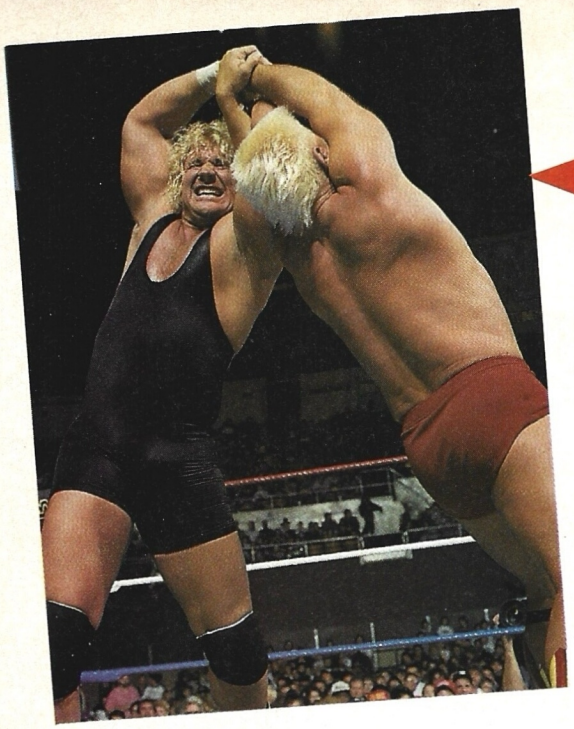
Even Perfect's former adversaries concur. Current Champion Bret "Hit Man" Hart—the fellow renowned for his "excellence of execution"—lets it be known that he learned a trick or two from his one-time foe.

"The reason that Mr. Perfect is such a worthy opponent," Hart stresses, "is because of the ethic instilled in him at a very early age. That's something I relate to, since both of our fathers were wrestlers. The lesson he learned over and over again was to never settle—always go for the top. You can't make it to the top unless you're capable of staying there. In order to be capable, you'd better have an incredible ring arsenal. Mr. Perfect does, and that's the reason why even his bitter opponents have to stand back and give him the respect that he's earned."

While Perfect's finisher, the Perfect-plex, garners the lion's share of publicity, even casual fans realize the versatility of his repertoire. The man is a great "starter," the kind of wrestler who takes an early lead in an important match and never relinquishes it. He's equally adept at defensive wrestling, having the ability to keep his mind clear during the most threatening moments of a ring war, searching for and then finding the proper moment to rebound. Notes a lifelong friend of the competitor, "He's as cool as the day is long. Even when it looks as if the walls are tumbling down, he's still calculating and confident of victory. One trait never attributed to Mr. Perfect is panicking."

Not only has Perfect mastered all the classic ring moves, but he knows when to best apply them, putting his own spin on the maneuvers. He'll wait until an opponent is an inch away from him before leaving his feet and blasting the foe with a lightning-quick dropkick. Other times, he'll face off with a wrestler, place a hand on the man's head and shock everyone by holding the fellow in place for a double boot to the face. "Anyone who's ever trained to be a wrestler knows how to throw a dropkick," says Perfect's friend. "What Mr. Perfect understands is when it's most productive to come up with the move. He's a thinker who happens to be blessed with an athlete's body and an inborn toughness."

In addition, Perfect has come up with numerous moves never seen before his emergence in the ring. Often he'll batter an opponent until he's wobbling on the mat in a sitting position. Perfect then goes behind his foe, backing into the corner. Suddenly the brawny battler charges forward, gripping the man's head and somersaulting over him. "Have you ever had a sore neck that wouldn't heal for days?" a former rival asks.



"Well, this is a sore neck that doesn't go away for months. There's so much speed behind that somersault that you feel as if he's going to pitch your cranium into the next county."

If a fellow is unfortunate enough to be flattened on the canvas, Perfect will surprise him with another memorable move focusing on one part of the body. Standing at the wrestler's side, Perfect jams a foot into his adversary's hip, picks up the victim's leg and falls to the mat. One man who endured this procedure insists, "It's the closest thing to being split in half that I've ever experienced—and I've been in the ring for 15 years. Not only do you feel this immense pain, but you're frustrated about being toyed with so easily."

The truly scary aspect of Perfect's assault is that the above-mentioned moves are delivered while he's just warming up. "My father taught me something a long time ago," Perfect points out. "A wrestling match is a gamble—no one knows who's going to get his hand raised and who's going to leave on a stretcher. When you sit down at the poker table, you don't show your hand. That means you don't deliver your finisher until your opponent's ready to go bye-bye. If you try a fancy move too early and your opponent survives it, there's nothing left in your pot. Then you're playing on credit and getting deeper in debt every second."

When Perfect himself appears mired in a deficit, he usually manages a meteoric recovery. "I honestly believe that if your heart is truly in a match and you have the skill, nothing can defeat you," he says. "There've been times when I've looked up at the arena lights and the referee's hand is about to hit the mat a third time, and something just happened. I found a way to bounce back—I just wouldn't accept a loss."

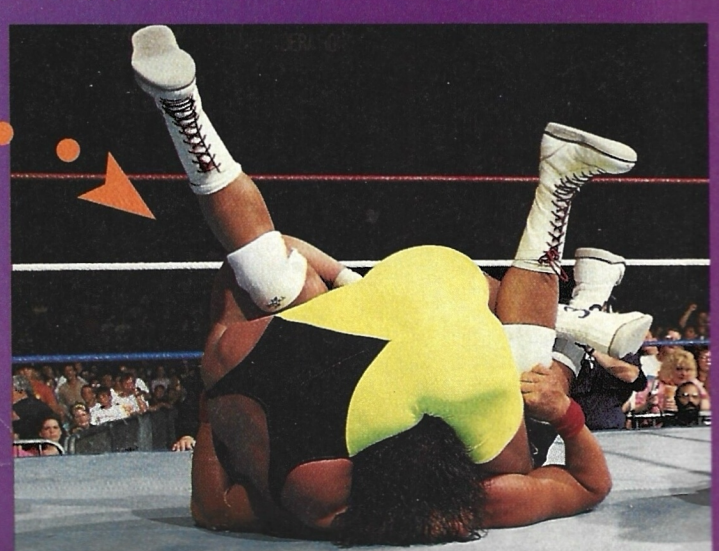
Longtime Perfect watchers have seen him avoid a backdrop or clothesline by grabbing the top rope after being Irish-whipped and simply sliding out of the ring to take a breather. At one point during his storied SummerSlam '91 contest with Hart, Perfect stunned the crowd by breaking up his adversary's crucifix attempt via falling backward on top of his rival.

If necessary, Perfect is not beyond using his fists and feet to rally from behind, dazzling his foe with a hard right to the jaw followed by a crunching body blow and a kick to the ribs. "When you join the World Wrestling Federation, you might as well sign up with the French Foreign Legion and ask them to put you in the middle of a desert battle," Perfect states. "This is war out there, and in war you do what it takes to win."

That might mean whipping your opponent into the ropes, then flying at him, twisting your arms around his head and going behind him to clamp on an airtight sleeper. "A lot of the guys I wrestle don't associate me with the sleeperhold," Perfect says. "That's fine with me. It's a move I understand and a move I apply perfectly. But too many of my opponents don't take it into consideration when they're training to wrestle me. I guess they're all waiting for the Perfect-plex."

Their logic makes sense. The Perfect-plex is Perfect's most dreaded move—and the one fans will remember long after he's retired. It takes strength, coordination and quite a bit of flash when Perfect smashes a man backward onto the canvas with a suplex, then exhibits a flawless neck bridge. With his body locked in Perfect's iron grasp, the victim is powerless to do little more than listen to the referee's three-count.

The subject of the Perfect-plex brings Perfect back to the topic of living up to your boasts. "There've been times during my career when I thought a scheming manager like Bobby Heenan was the ticket to getting everything I wanted in wrestling," he recalls. "Then I decided to look at myself—the things that I could accomplish without anybody's help. I watched a tape of myself in action, talked to Randy Savage, and something changed. For years I'd been saying I was perfect. The difference was that now I knew it was true."



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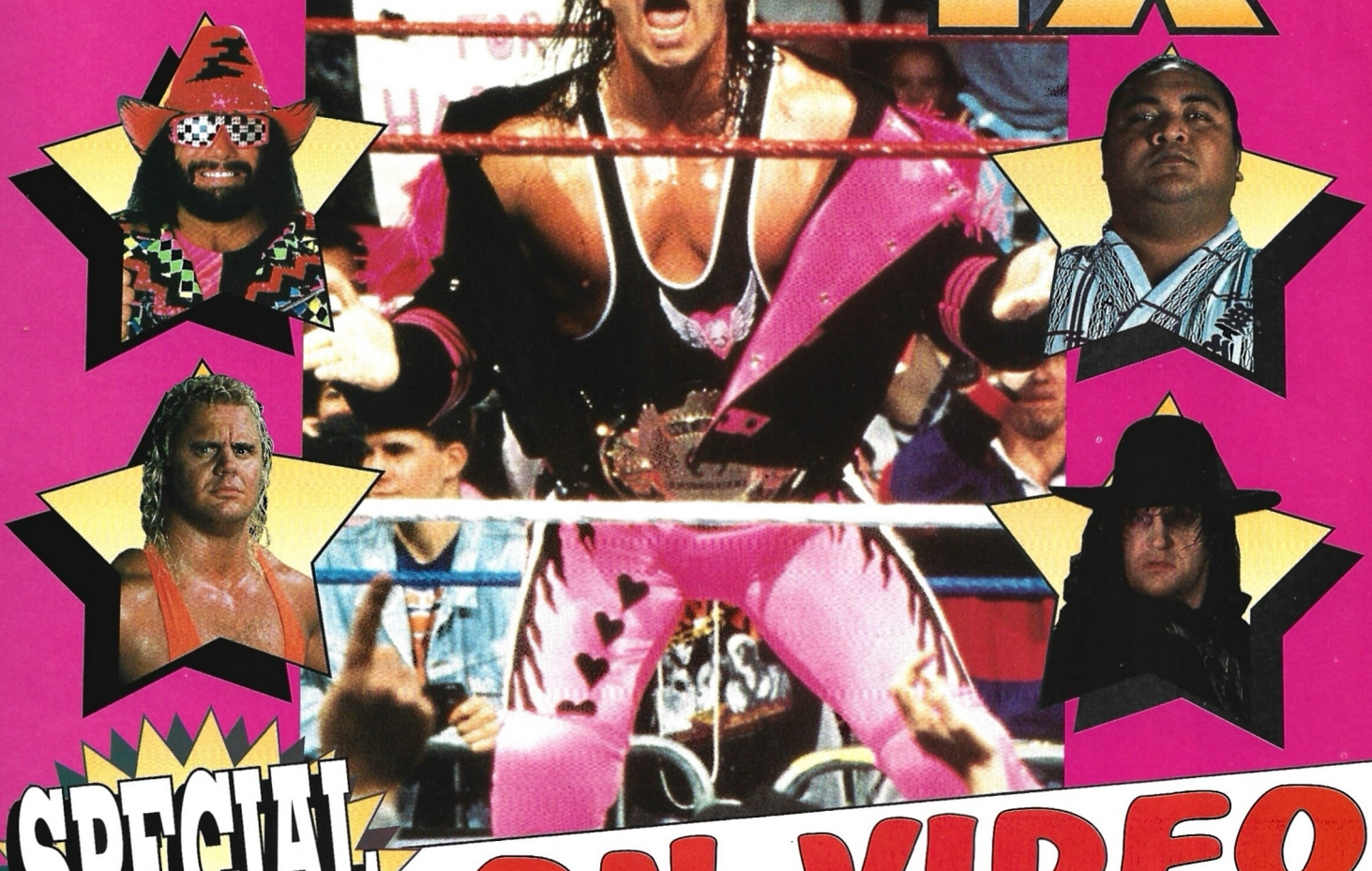

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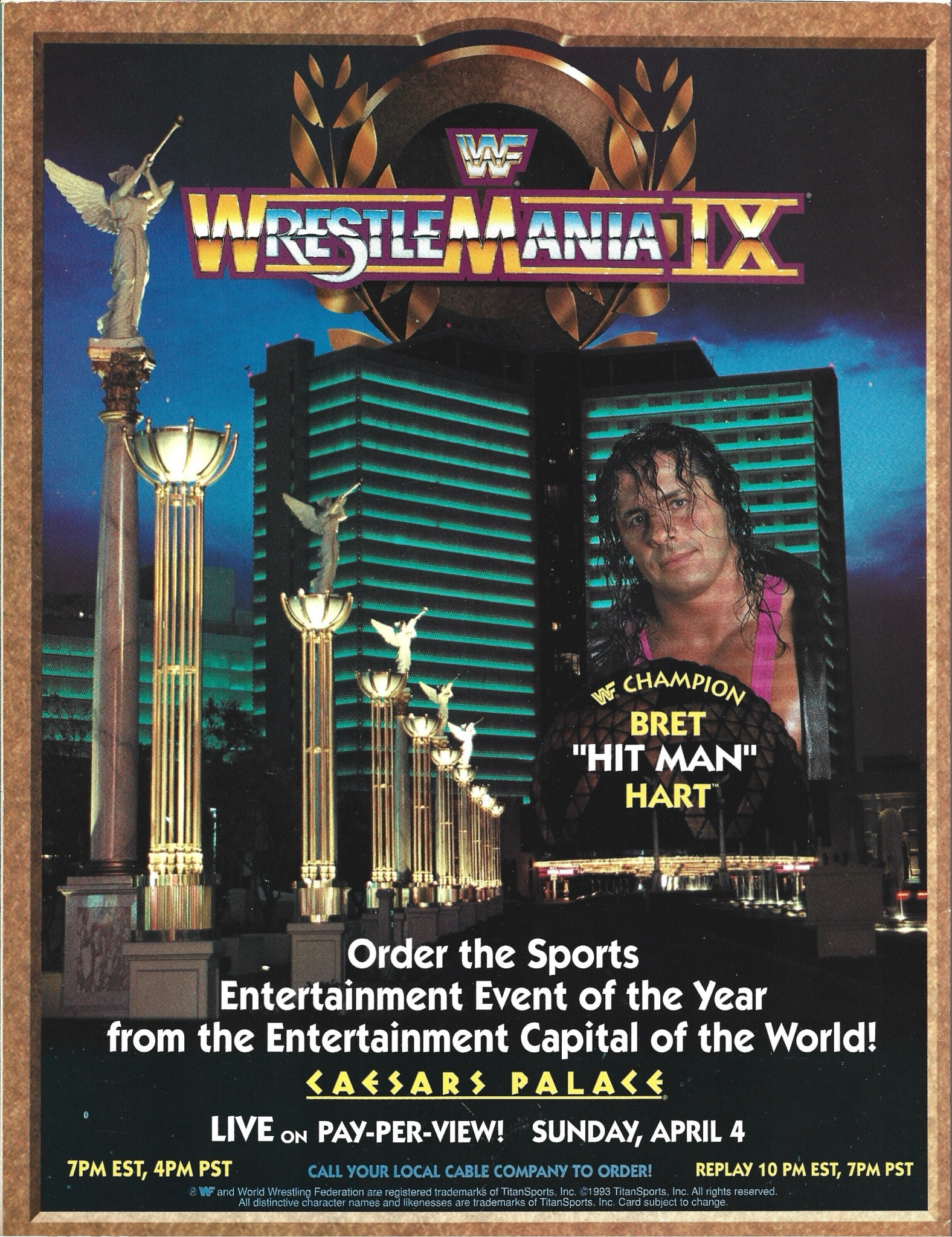
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